



## A More Perfect Union

By ALEC MACNEIL, I  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Titular opulence aside, there is an organization that has been gathering attention (and, perhaps to a larger extent, speculation) at Boston Latin School: the Boston Student Union. Most apropos to discussing any topic is first understanding where it came from and what exactly it is.

Working as a Ward Fellow at City Hall this past summer, Mark Favorito (I) had the opportunity to hear a myriad of public officers lecture on various aspects of government and local issues. The words of City Councilor Tito Jackson, who said that students need to take control of their education and thus a stronger involvement in their own lives, resonated deeply with Favorito. And this theory was brought into practice when he learned that Boston Public Schools had plans to extend the school day without involving students in the discussion in any way whatsoever. Taking the necessary steps and arranging a meeting with the Councilor, Favorito, along with Katie Wang (I) and Elin Dahal (I), were further encouraged to find a way to express student desire to have a stronger say in their education, to the point where the BSU was born.

According to Michael Sitcawich (I), “the Boston Student Union is run by students for students.” Members of the union feel that they have “a bottom-up approach,” says Wang, “where those actually in the classrooms learning should be the ones deciding how that learning occurs.” They feel that the reality of public education policy is the exact opposite: everyone but students—from administrators to local citizens—has the voice in the education of students.

Nicolas Jofre, a senior at Harvard College, whilst studying cultural sociology, has been aiding the BSU move forward with what it hopes to accomplish. He, along with Harvard junior and Latin School alumnus William Poff-Webster, has always been intrigued in what he considers an anomaly—that students lack a voice in their own education. Jofre had been a part of a peaceful protest

(a walkout during the school’s third period class) which ultimately was an expression of student dissatisfaction in not having a say in a decision they felt was opposite to what they truly desired. Poff-Webster, while still at Latin, was able to successfully lobby for student evaluations to be performed by the students actually in the classrooms. “I feel that the BSU is inspired by the notion of reaching out to the students sitting right next you, and understanding their concerns,” says Jofre.

Following closely on the coat-tails of any group or social movement screaming for change are criticisms and

of the union invited students from all grade levels to come and address their grievances towards what they felt their education was lacking. Using these responses, the union plans to create a survey that will ask students various questions in order to get a sense of what issues students feel most strongly about in the school. So in response to the criticism that the BSU has made it unclear about how it will change things, it first intends to find out what changes need to be made and then to develop a plan of action to put those changes into effect. Enlisting the aid of a company called Panorama Education, members of the

is no denying both the fact that upper classmen, having had more experience in the BPS, are to some degree more equipped to address their dissatisfaction with their lack of representation and that everyone quoted thus far in the article have a “(I)” next to their names, Rose Silverman (II) is a core member of the union. “Ultimately, I feel that every student from every grade level would want their voice heard. This whole idea will fail if the mission of the union graduates along with the senior class,” she says, reiterating that the BSU seeks each student from each grade to be heard.



LOOK AT ALL THOSE BOSTON STUDENTS UNIONIZING!

misconceptions which slowly distort and alter the perception of the purpose of a movement. One of the largest directed towards the BSU is the lack of a plan on how to change anything so that the significance of student voice actually grows. Says Fouad Baghdad-Zougagh (I): “I understand and appreciate what they are trying to accomplish, but I’m not sure how they actually plan to implement those changes.” At a meeting which I myself attended earlier in the school year, the core members

BSU will help compile the anonymous responses to the surveys in various visual representations to clarify which issues the student body as a whole feels most powerfully about. The survey in question will be distributed to students in Latin School during homeroom as soon as the administration gives it the proverbial “green light.”

Furthermore, there have been concerns among the student body that the BSU is exclusive only to seniors or upper classmen. While indeed there

“I support what the BSU is trying to do; I think it will take time for the BSU to make a significant impact,” says Abdirizak Abdi (I). This is certainly something to be considered; history has shown that any large social change has had small beginnings, and while it may be difficult to comprehend the long wait for success in an age of instant gratification, at the end of it all, change is still change, and whether or not it occurs depends on how many stand up to change it.

### News Tidbits

>>This presidential election has, for the second time since 1940, broken the infamous “Redskins Rule.” This rule, originally pointed out by Steve Hirdt, states that if the Washington Redskins are victorious in their last home game before the election, the incumbent president will win. This has been proven false twice, both by George W. Bush’s win over John Kerry in 2004 and by Obama’s recent victory. Now, political strategists are turning to more accurate means of prediction, like former baseball statistician Nate Silver’s prediction algorithms. (Washington Post)

>>A Ukrainian boy has decided that his Halloween was not profitable enough, spending the equivalent of over 4,000 dollars on assorted candies. One of the many problems was that it was his parents’ money. In fact, it was their life savings. He did not do it alone; many of the Russian news agencies covering the story have reported that he did it with an adult accomplice who “has been diagnosed with a mental disorder.” The man did this for a cut of the money spent on candy, taking the biggest bill every time they changed the money into the Ukrainian currency, the hryvnas. The parents, while furious, were told by police that there was no way to

get the money back. (United Press International)

>>A Chinese man has sued his wife for being ugly and won 120,000 dollars. Jian Feng was shocked at the unattractive appearance of his baby since it did not look like him or his wife and demanded to know who the real father was. Apparently, his wife had not cheated on him; she just forgot to mention that she had about 100,000 dollars worth of plastic surgery done prior to meeting him. Upon discovering this, Feng divorced and sued her, claiming that she had gotten him to marry her under false pretenses. He won the full amount requested. (Daily Mail)

>>An Arizona woman ran her husband over with an SUV upon learning that he forgot to vote in the recent presidential election. The woman, Holly Solomon, who was not under any influences, punished her husband for not voting for candidate Mitt Romney and thus, in her mind, making Mitt Romney lose the election. After chasing her husband around a parking lot, she eventually pinned him between the vehicle and a curb. Her husband survived, but remains in the hospital in critical condition. Solomon has been charged with domestic violence and aggravated assault. Mitt Romney won Arizona by about 200,000 votes. (CBS News)



Dear readers,

The Argo is back for its first real issue! (ecstatic squealing) This year, we're making a promise to all you readers: the Argo is going to be more fun, more interesting, more relevant than ever. We couldn't be more proud of our sixteen glorious pages, jam-packed with the most important school issues for you to peruse. They cover everything from what all the fuss about the BSU is about, to how the heck the SIS system works, to what the major problems of BLS are, to whether the Hypnotist was as amazing this year as it is every year (hint: yes), all highlighted by beautiful student-snapped photos.

We're also going to strive to incorporate student feedback. Have a suggestion? A response to a Forum or News article than made your blood sing (or boil, as the case may be)? Want to write a Senior spotlight? Send them all to [blsargo@gmail.com](mailto:blsargo@gmail.com).

As always, this issue is only here thanks to the entire insomniac Argo staff, especially to the lovely Layout ladies, who were stuck in the Art Wing while the rest of BLS got hypnotized or attended the Holy Name dance or watched the stirring and patriotic "Lincoln" (which A&E highly recommends!) or, better yet, watched that masterpiece that is "Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2" - so props to them all.

So, we hope that you enjoy this first issue, an issue which is essentially the product of lots of stress, lots of executive decisions, lots of Final Friday pizza, and lots and lots of love.

Nhu Le & Alec Macneil  
Your Editors-in-Chief

# Sandy: More Than Just a Day Off

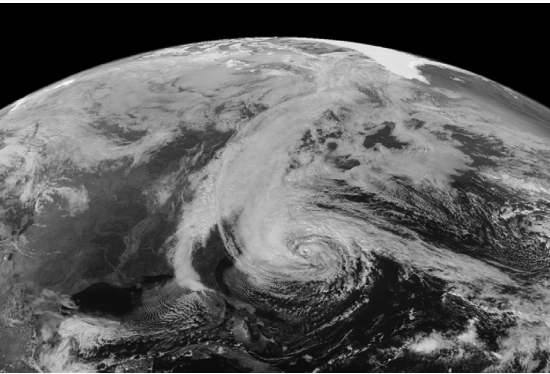
BY ISABELLE DESISTO, III  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If one were to ask a random Boston Latin School student what they thought about Hurricane Sandy, which struck Boston on the night of October 29, one might hear something like: "It was awesome; we got to miss a whole day of school!" Unfortunately, scientists would say that such excitement is severely misguided. Not only did this "Frankenstorm" ravage Caribbean islands and the eastern United States coast alike, killing over 100 people in the United States alone and leaving millions without power, but it also points to an even more formidable rival: climate change.

In the past 40 years, the northeast has seen average temperature rises of half a degree Fahrenheit per decade. In the past century, precipitation has increased by almost 20 percent. Winters are wetter and summers are hotter; Data collected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) even marked 2010 as the end of the hottest decade in recorded history. These trends continue to elicit global effects, many of which directly affect Boston itself.

Sea levels are rising steadily in accordance with temperature increases largely due to thermal expansion, and

Massachusetts' susceptible coastline faces continuously worsening threats of flooding. Additionally, since 1970, "nor'easters" and tropical storms like Sandy and Hurricane Irene of 2011 have hit New England more frequently and with greater force. While New York Governor Andrew Cuomo quipped sarcastically that there is a "100-year flood every two years now," his message was especially clear to the people of New York City and Boston, who, in the midst of repairing damages left by Hurricane Sandy, experienced a nor'easter on November 7.



SANDY RAGING ABOVE THE EASTERN COAST

Tropical cyclones like Sandy are not directly caused by climate change, but are exacerbated by it. Higher sea levels and warmer ocean temperatures resulted in unusually large storm surges, which in turn caused the hurricane that served as

a wake-up call to many, including United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. In a speech to the General Assembly, Mr. Ban called for the recognition of climate change as the "new normal", but also gave the disaster a positive light. "This is an opportunity, not just a burden. It is a chance to steer the world on a more sustainable path... for long-term prosperity and stability for all. This should be one of the main lessons of Hurricane Sandy. Let us make this wise investment in our common future," he said in the aftermath of the storm.

In fact, many share Mr. Ban's sentiment. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City, endorsed newly re-elected President Barack Obama after he had previously declined to support any candidate, citing a need for leaders to take action against global warming. Obama, in turn, commented in his victory speech that, "We want our children to live in an America... that isn't threatened by the destructive power of a warming planet." Perhaps, then, Sandy served a purpose equally powerful to the destruction she caused: bringing critical awareness not only to the fate of cities like New York, but also to the future of the planet.

Boston Latin School Argo  
2011 -2012 Academic Year  
*Editorial Board*

. . .

**Editors-in-Chief**

Nhu Le, I  
Alec Macneil, I

. **CONTENT** .

**News Editors**

Mike Skerrett, II  
Alice Xiao, II  
*Assistant News Editors*  
Jacob Metz-Lerman, I  
Marcella Caruso, II

**Science & Technology Editors**

Jake Zhang, I  
Da Chuan Shi, I  
Rony Thomas, I

**Forum Editors**

Michael Sitcawich, I  
Katie Wang, I  
*Assistant Forum Editors*  
Aurelia Paquette, I  
Andrew Zick, I

**A&E Editors**

Geraldine Vittini, I  
Stephen Zoulalian, I  
*Assistant A&E Editor*  
Oona Cullen, I

**Sports Editors**

Abdirizak Abdi, I  
Fouad Baghdad, I

. **PRODUCTION** .

**Copy Editors**

Pooja Kalapurakkel, I  
Chidimma Nzerem, I  
*Assistant Copy Editors*  
Maggie Lee, I  
Isabella Rosales, I

**Copy Associates**

Trina Do, I  
Erick Nuestro, I  
Isabel Alexander, II  
Richard Fu, II  
Antoine Jones, II  
Rose Silverman, II  
Sophia Sun, II  
Jake Zhu, II  
Kevin Zhu, II  
Anli Xiang, III  
Greta Gaffin, IV  
Linda Qin, IV  
Clare Zhou, IV  
Shirley Zhou, III  
Jonathan Zou, IV  
Zoë Pelletier, V

**Layout Editors**

Abby Hoang, !  
Thuy Duong Le, !

*Assistant Layout Editors*

Alice Mo, I  
Anna Peng, VI

**Layout Associates**

Steven Li, I  
Michelle Mei, I  
Casey Moy, I  
Christine Wong, I  
Aimee Chan, IV  
Jessica Huynh, IV  
Ryan Li, IV  
Lina Liu, IV  
Rebecca Tran, IV  
Nathan Han, V  
Allyson Ping, V

**Photography Editors**

Jaemin Woo, I  
Alex Yuan, I

*Assistant Photography Editor*

Angela Su, I  
Samantha To, ?

**Editorial Board Associate**

Joey McCourt, I

. . .

**Faculty Advisor**

Kay Moon

**Special Thanks To**

Paul Pitts  
Malcolm Flynn  
Albert Lee

BOSTON  
LATIN  
SCHOOL



BLSA

THE BOSTON LATIN  
SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

*has proudly supported and funded Boston  
Latin School's sports, extracurriculars, music,  
academics, and publications - including the  
Argo - for over 160 years.*



Boston Latin School

Argo

MISSION STATEMENT

Petere Veritatem

The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

ARGO

BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL

78 AVENUE LOUIS PASTEUR

BOSTON, MA 02115

1998 New England  
Scholastic Press  
Association  
Superior  
Achievement Award

1997 New England  
Scholastic Press Association  
Superior Achievement  
Award

1996 New England  
Scholastic Press  
Association  
Superior  
Achievement Award

1996 Third Place  
Suffolk University  
High School  
Journalism  
Competition

2011 Honorable Mention  
Suffolk University High School  
Journalism Competition  
Excellence in Forum Writing

2004 New England  
Scholastic Press  
Association  
Highest Achievement  
Award

2007 First Place  
Greater Boston High School  
Newspaper Competition  
Excellence in Sports Writing

2007 Honorable Mention  
Greater Boston High School  
Newspaper Competition  
Excellence in News Writing



# NEWS

## AP Psych: Fact or Fiction?

By SYLVIE STOLOFF, III  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Rumors have run rampant in the past weeks that Boston Latin School will be introducing a psychology course for juniors and seniors. Unfortunately, they are not true. A few administrators involved in the course-selection process confirmed that these rumors are completely unfounded. An official proposal for such a course has not been made—yet.

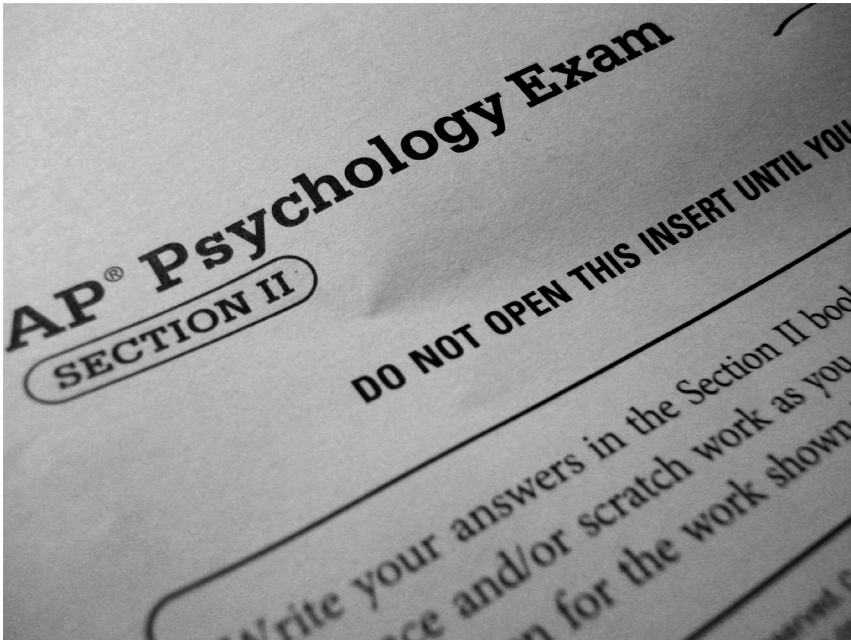
According to Ms. McCoy, the process for introducing new courses is largely influenced by students. In order for BLS to launch a new course, she explains, a teacher or student would have to approach the head of the department under which the proposed course would fall. The department head would then get the course approved by Dr. Mooney Teta, and a proposal would go out to the Instructional Leadership Team to see how many students would want to take it and determine if it would be worth the expenses. Sometimes, says Mr. Montague, whether or not a course gets approved is a matter of scheduling and/or qualification.

There may be teachers who are qualified to teach the class, but already have a full class schedule. Ms. Holm, for example, is qualified to teach Psychology but already has a handful of other APs to teach. Other times, classes can be approved and provided for, but do not make it on the selection sheet because there are not enough students signed up to take them, such as Greek 2.

At the very least, student support should be easy to gather. Students are largely in favor of introducing a psychology course. Part of this excitement may have started the original rumor that has made its way around the school. “I would love to take psychology,” says Kristen Fields (III). “It would be good

stating that Psychology may be helpful in college or in making a career choice, she also points out that it “gives teens a way to understand what is going on during the most tumultuous time of their development” and that it “may reduce anxiety or fear.” Overall, she thinks that taking Psychology will give students “a chance to understand the whys and hows of people’s behavior, and give them a playbook for guiding their own development towards a more positive path.” Mr. Montague also thinks Psychology would be useful to students. “It would be great to have a wide range of electives,” he says. “[Psychology] would be a great idea if we had someone qualified to teach it.

Other schools in the area, like Newton North High School, Newton South High School and Weston High School, have instituted successful Advanced Placement and introductory psychology courses. Brookline High School even includes classes like Psychology of Marketing and Psychological Studies in Human Development, both of which point to the many uses of a basic knowledge in psychology and illustrate why having a psychology program could help BLS students further their education. All that is needed now is an official proposal to get this program established in our own school, and with such overwhelming support from students and teachers alike, this goal may be more easily achievable than it seems.



A FUTURE POSSIBILITY

to get a little more variety in our course-selection. Especially through a class like Psychology, that is relevant to so many different professions.” In fact, of 30 sophomores asked, every one of them said that they would be interested in taking a psychology course in his or her junior or senior year.

Even though there has been no official pitch, many teachers are excited about this hypothetical addition to the course selection. Ms. Garvey, who was rumored to be under consideration for the teaching position of this program and holds a degree in psychology herself, is enthusiastic about the idea. In addition to

## BLS Votes Early

By MIKE SKERRETT, II &  
ALICE XIAO, II  
NEWS EDITORS

Boston Latin School, meet your new mock president. Luckily, he’s your country’s real president as well, so you don’t have to get confused. Barack Obama, president of the United States, has also won the recent mock election with over 70 percent of the popular vote in an election that surprised no one.

As students shuffled into the Harry V. Keefe Library at BLS on November 1, excited to have a few precious minutes away from their history classes, they were treated to a civic experience that is still several years away for many of the teenagers who were present. The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum coordinated The National Student Mock Election, an initiative to involve younger teens who cannot yet vote at Boston Latin School. The Library contacted the school and collaborated with the history department in planning and holding the election. Mr. L. Lee Butler, librarian at Latin School, described the in-school elections as “modeling civic engagement for students,” ultimately enabling students to speak their mind and partake in the national elections in their own way.

The National Student Mock Election was founded in 1980 as the National Student/Parent Mock Election Initiative. In 18 elections it has served as the largest civil education program in the United States and the largest national mock election program in the world.

Although this mock election had no impact on the results of the real election, Butler considered it to be “a fun event that gave a sense of what voting is like and a concrete place for students to express their opinion.” Since students are treated to seemingly 24/7 coverage of the presidential race, campaign propaganda from all sides, and adults attempting to shape their opinion, the mock election allowed students to think about and articulate their own stance on issues routinely debated on the national stage. It’s a liberty not often realized by youth. “There’s also a lot of interest in knowing how people under 18 view the presidency across the nation,” noted Butler.

As to be expected with an initiative like this, many students were dissatisfied with the questions provided on the ballot. The one complaint among the student body was that the ballot questions and senatorial race candidates weren’t included. So why omit these crucial aspects of the election? According to Mr. Butler, it was a matter of time restraint. The JFK Library “gave us the option of the senatorial race and ballot, but we went strictly president partly due to time restrictions,” he said, citing the potential loss of instructional class time.

Michaela Vitagliano (II) said that she thought it was “very cool that the school opened up the option to vote or, at least, a fake vote.” She enjoyed the experience, especially because she was an informed voter. “In history class we talked a lot about the different candidates and the debates, so I had a clear

idea of who to vote for,” she explained.

Latin School students elected Barack Obama in a landslide victory with 1402 votes, while Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney came in a distant second, garnering 240 votes. Jill Stein of the Green-Rainbow Party fared even worse with 139 votes, and the Libertarian Party’s Gary Johnson finished in last with 68 votes.

Mr. Butler expressed hopes that in the future there would be more of an educational background helping the students to form more educated opinions in the weeks leading up to the mock election, perhaps encouraging history teachers to incorporate a unit focused more on current events and news.

Although the plethora of ads dedicated to courting the youth vote are successful to some extent, nothing raises enthusiasm for voting like actually voting. It is important to ensure students are educated and informed and are capable of carrying out Boston Latin’s ideal of a responsible and engaged citizenship. The mock voters of today will be the real voters of tomorrow, affecting politics within the community and the nation as well. Vitagliano added, “It was interesting to note that Obama won in school and won in the actual election too.” Whether students voted because they support a candidate’s issues, were swayed by the views of their friends or just because the Green-Rainbow party name is fun to say, Boston Latin got a taste of something that oppressed nations around the world hunger for: the freedom to choose their own destiny.

## Club Spotlight

### Student Council

By MARCELLA CARUSO, II  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

During the first few weeks of the school year, every homeroom elects a homeroom representative. Unfortunately, many students do not know what they are voting or running for. Homeroom representatives are part of a program run by Student Council that focuses on reaching out to members of all grades and having them deliver news to their fellow classmates. This is one way to get involved in Student Council. The other was through the extracurricular fair earlier this year, which gave those who were not chosen as their homeroom representative or did not know about Student Council, an opportunity to sign up.

The Student Council has many purposes, including bridging upper and lower classes and speaking for the student community. According to its president, MaryRose Maiullari (I), “Student Council is important because it allows students to become involved in creating school activities while meeting other students in the process. It also serves as a weekly discussion for students to address any circumstances regarding the school community. It is a very welcoming club, with members from every grade.” The mission of Student Council is to plan schoolwide events and give students a chance to voice their opinions on proposed regulations.

The Boston Latin Student Council well represents the student body in issues concerning all of its members and their fellow classmates. Since many of the members join by becoming homeroom representatives, each grade has fair representation and is looking out for the interests of others in their respective years.

This past October, Student Council hosted the school’s first annual Rocktoberfest, a karaoke and emcee battle. Rocktoberfest was a great success and included performances by the Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe and BLS Step Squad. Those who attended had the opportunity to participate or just watch the performances and eat snacks provided by the Student Council. Best of all, this event was free. One of the Student Council’s primary goals is to create a fun and enjoyable atmosphere at BLS by providing events and activities that can help relieve the stress of the academic side of school.

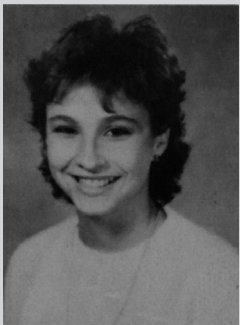
In the upcoming month, Student Council will celebrate the Christmas spirit by giving back to the community. They will continue their annual fundraiser for Globe Santa by collecting money that will go to families in need during the holiday season. Student Council also organizes the annual student-faculty basketball game, Battle of the Bands and other fun events throughout the school year. In addition, they will present BLS’s Crystal Apple Awards, which allow students to honor teachers that have made a significant impact on their education.

Those interested in Student Council can get involved by signing up and coming to meetings, which take place after school on Mondays in Mrs. Long’s room (023). If you are interested in helping out in any way, you can email MaryRose at BLSStudentCouncil@gmail.com. As she puts it, “Student Council is a way for students to have a say in what’s going on at Boston Latin School.”



Spotlight

Lynne Mooney Teta



By Mike Skerrett, II  
News Editor

26 years after her graduation, Lynne Mooney Teta still wears her Boston Latin School class ring. Recently shedding her suffix of “Ms.” for “Dr.” after completing a doctorate program in Education Administration through Boston College, our headmaster may perhaps strike an imposing figure to those who haven’t yet made her acquaintance. She is, however, much funnier and more personable than an accomplished headmaster of a distinguished school has any right to be.

At one point in the interview I describe the student body’s perception of her as an enigmatic figure, and this amuses Dr. Mooney Teta to no end. A self-described “straight shooter,” the headmaster assures me that nothing could be further from the truth.

Born the oldest of three girls, Mooney Teta entered Latin as a sixie in the fall of 1980. She fondly remembers her days on the swim team, being shown the ropes by the upperclassmen. “That’s the way that a lot of the ‘unofficial’ education gets transmitted,” she says. “I learned how to survive BLS from the older kids.” She immediately recalls swimming and tutoring as her main extracurriculars, but when she pulls out her yearbook, Irish Historical Society, Latin Club, National Honor Society and Ski Club boast her name as well. Somehow, Mooney Teta forgets to mention that she was voted “Most Likely to Succeed”. And for a Boston Latin School class, that’s no trifling accomplishment.

Her sisters didn’t stick around long after high school, going to college as far away as USC and Tulane. “I don’t know how much getting out of town had to do with me,” she laughs. “I never thought about it that way.”

After graduating from Boston Latin, she went on to study at one of the only colleges that can rival BLS in antiquity. “I was probably in the lower GPA [range] of the kids who got into Harvard, to be quite honest,” she admits. After entering undecided, she took an interest in psychology, which was her intended major until she found out about the Teacher Education Program. From there, it was on to Belmont, Dedham and Needham as a teacher, administrator and finally an assistant principal.

Dr. Mooney Teta came back to Boston Latin as an assistant principal under Ms. Corneila Kelley, and was struck by the expansion of the Guidance Department. “It’s just the one-stop shop,” she said proudly. “We had no guidance support.” After Ms. Kelley’s retirement in 2007, Dr. Mooney Teta took over as the second female headmaster in the school’s history. When she’s not hosting Principals-for-a-day or working on reading Mr. Flynn’s extensive list of BLS-related non-fiction, she enjoys going to Maine and kayaking with her family.

“What’s one thing you want the student body to know about you?” I ask. She pauses to think. “What I really want kids to know is that I remember what it was like, and I know how hard it is, and I haven’t let that go.” She mentions her daughter, starting seventh grade at the school. As a mother, she’s watching life at BLS start all over again, and she says it has only strengthened her commitment to the student body.

“If I was getting removed from it at all,” she muses, “I’m right back in it.”

News

One Party, Divisible

Jake Zhu, II  
Contributing Writer

Needless to say, the Democrats are feeling pretty good about themselves. Although faced with a deeply divided nation and skyrocketing national debt, Barack Obama was re-elected by the American people on Super Tuesday with a final electoral vote of 332-206. Months before, Karl Rove, who spent 300 million dollars on Romney’s campaign, and several other prominent Republican strategists, promised that Republicans would win the executive leadership. When the results of the election were publicly released, bewildered conservatives nervously scratched their heads. They wondered how it was possible that, given Obama’s abysmal record, the president was re-elected.

It is no secret that the Republican Party is divided. The degree of the disunity, however, was severely underestimated by conservative tacticians in the recent election.

Some Republicans argue that defeat occurs each time a moderate conservative is nominated. To them, it is no mystery that when John

McCain lost in 2008 and now Romney in 2012, America was calling out for a more traditional conservative—someone that would run a campaign defending not only fiscal conservatism but also social conservatism. Other Republicans, however, deny such claims. While it is statistically true that social conservatives, such as George W. Bush, have been more likely to win elections in the past, it is fallacious to claim that the inherent lack of social conservatism resulted in Romney’s defeat. “If we lose the election, there is

only one explanation—demographics,” said Republican Senator Lindsey Graham. The Grand Old Party (GOP) garners most of its loyal support from the shrinking population of old white men from rural areas, while the Democratic Party extends its basis to a rising number of minorities and socially-liberal young people in urban societies.

Demographical data of the election shows that only about 27 percent of Latino voters backed Romney. With Latinos representing one in 10 votes, many conservatives argue that it would be a crucial error to further alienate them by advocating for the deportation of illegal immigrants and disparaging immigration reform efforts. Anthropologists have said that Latinos have traditionally been conservative, which is reinforced by strong religious faith and a natural distrust of the federal government. Many political analysts believe that if Republicans did not ostracize them on the issue of immigration, they would have much more support among Hispanic voters. As a result, practically-minded conservatives wish to pass a racially-sensitive immigration policy, and downplay abortion and contraception issues.

This, they argue, will expand the narrow GOP platform to incorporate a multitude of voters in the next generation.

Shortly after the presidential election, former presidential candidate Herman Cain declared in a controversial statement, “We need a third party to save this country. Not Ron Paul and the Ron Paulites. No. We need a legitimate third party.” While many practical conservatives agree that Cain may be tenable in advocating for a third party, they also

believe that it is a grave mistake to dismiss the libertarian wing of the Republican Party. Even Republican politicians, such as Sarah Palin, argue that it would be in their best interests to appeal to the younger Ron Paul Republicans. If a third party were created with Cain as leader, some wonder how it would be any different from the current GOP. Skeptics have no doubts that the third party would be one devoted to foreign intervention and unpopular castigation of civil liberties—it would only accomplish taking away votes from the mainstream Republican Party.

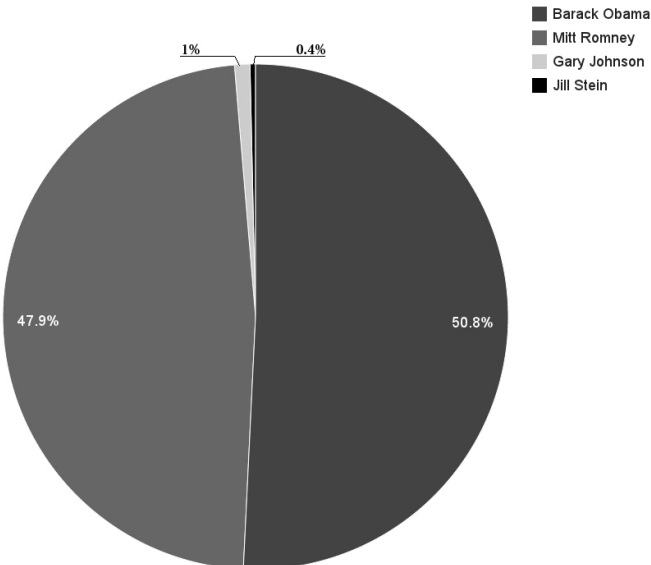
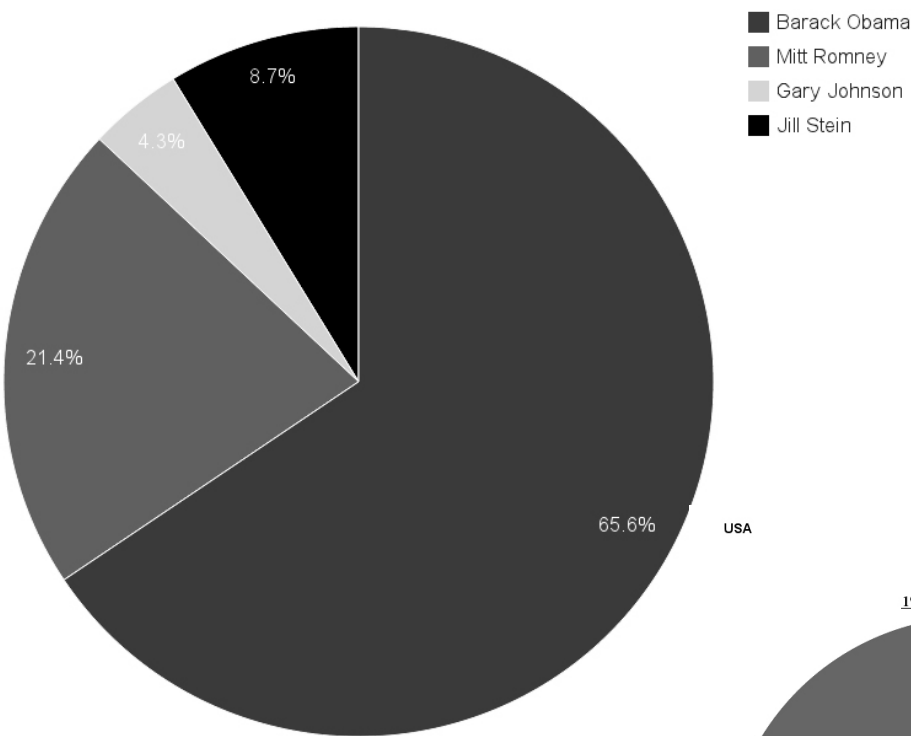
Advocates of a Libertarian-Conservative alliance allege that if the Republican Party were willing to adopt a less aggressive foreign policy and become more sensitive to civil rights issues, Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson’s one percent in the election might as well have gone to the Republican frontrunner. In this election, one percent was a very decisive number. Although many older neo-conservatives question whether compromising with libertarians would have any positive outcome, Senator Mike Lee attributes his campaign victory to Ron Paul’s endorsement. “When my campaign was hurting, Ron Paul endorsed me,” said Lee. “All of a sudden, all of these young people showed up to door knock for my campaign. They made a critical difference.”

If Barack Obama’s youth foundation can help him win the election, libertarians insist, why should it be any different if Republicans enlisted the help of the young libertarian-minded voters?

No Republican nowadays would deny that change is necessary to amend the divisions in the GOP. The direction towards which the change should move, however, is the ultimate question.

BLS VOTES EARLY  
Continued from Page 3

BLS



Summary of Results:

Boston Latin Students re-elected President Barack Obama by a large margin. Obama received 1402 votes, while Former Massachusetts Gover-

nor Mitt Romney received 240 votes. Jill Stein of the Green-Rainbow Party received 139 votes and Gary Johnson of the Libertarian Party garnered 68 votes. Nationally and officially, Obama

and Romney received 62,611,250 and 59,134,475 popular votes and 332 and 206 electoral votes respectively. Johnson and Stein received 1,211,982 and 431,719 popular votes respectively.



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Are Colleges Stalking You on Facebook?

By **JAKE ZHANG, I**  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Everyone knows that colleges can be very intrusive. Everything from academic achievements to conduct grades is relentlessly examined to aid in the decision-making process. So it comes to no surprise that colleges can, and do, check social networking sites like Facebook to learn more about their applicants. One study shows that 21 percent of colleges use social networking sites to gather information on students. That means one or two of your hopeful colleges will look you up on Facebook. If you have incriminating photos on your Facebook profile, or if you just do not want colleges to stalk your social life, then we recommend the following steps:

Hide your email. One of the most common ways that colleges can identify you on Facebook is through your email. The process is relatively simple; colleges will take the email you provided from your Common Application and enter it into the Facebook search bar or run it through a third-party application. In order to hide from colleges, make sure that your email does not appear anywhere on your Facebook account, or at least use an email different from the one you gave to colleges. The same applies to your address and phone number, both of which

you provided in your Common Application. You can easily change these in the “Contact Info” section of your profile.

Adopt a nickname. Another way colleges can identify you is through your name. Even if you have a common name (like Jake Zhang), a quick search will help pinpoint your profile. Changing just your last name will most likely prevent this, since it is nearly impossible to find someone with only their first name. Nicknames you go by are useful in fooling colleges, as long as you did not include it in your Common Application. Just do not make a nickname too crazy or else none of your friends will know who you are. You can do this in “Account Settings.”

Change your location, education and workplace. If you ever have tried to search someone on Facebook, you probably noticed that there is an option to filter the search results based on location,

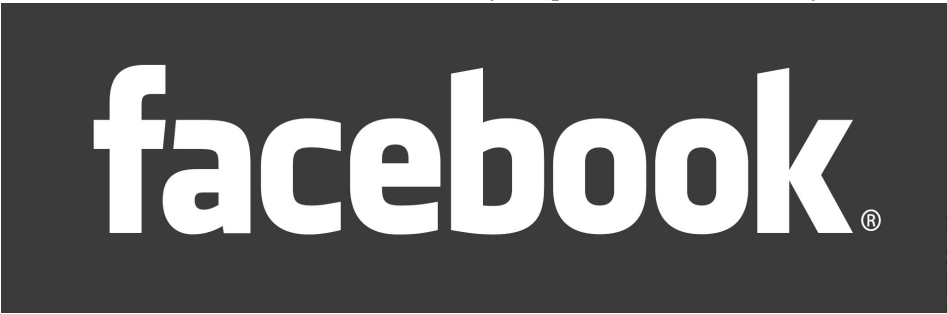
education or workplace. For example, if one were to search for “Jake,” there would be several hundred results. Once my education is added as “Boston Latin School” and year as “2013,” however, the search is dwindled down to three. The same method works with location and workplace. Colleges do not need your full name to find you. So even if you changed your name, it would be wise to change your location, education and workplace as well. You can do this in the “Work and Education” and “Living” sections of your profile page.

Change your privacy settings. This tip only applies for people that are eighteen. Why? Facebook only allows minors to communicate with “Friends of Friends,” which means that anyone who has not friended one of your friends cannot see your posts. If you are eighteen, however, you can make your posts “Public” for everyone to see,

including colleges. To avoid this, change your settings to “Friends of Friends” or just “Friends” to prohibit colleges from seeing any of your statuses or photos. This advice is useful in general to avoid creepy stalkers. You can do this in “Privacy Settings.”

Start deleting. Of course, if you have photos that are really bad, you should probably start deleting some of those questionable photos anyway. People get fired over incriminating Facebook and Twitter posts in the real world, and the college admission process is no exception. In the new information age, employers and deans alike will use social networking sites more and more to judge their applicants. This problem is likely to get worse, so we might as well address it now.

How will your Facebook profile affect your college applications? According to the Washington Post, 38 percent of admissions officers said what they saw “negatively affected” their decision, and some applicants were even rejected because of incriminating posts. We should all be wary of what we post online anyway, regardless of college applications. A single photo could decide whether or not you get into your dream college and the internet is yet another front we need to be cautious of, so start changing your profile. Meanwhile, I’ve got some deleting to do.



## What's Up with the SIS System?

By **ANTON XUE, III**  
ASSISTANT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

In a few clicks, Boston Public Schools’ (BPS) students are now capable of accessing their grades at all times thanks to BPS’s new online gradebook. To the joys of many over-achieving students and the chagrin of a number of technology-illiterate teachers, the still in beta portal of SIS makes its entrance into the life of the BPS community with its official launch in 2013.

With its introduction into the BPS school system this year, BPS’s New Student Information System, better known as SIS (though its real name is Aspen) is the city’s new online gradebook program that aims to improve the education system in Boston. It uses online databases that

hold information on individual students and can be readily accessed by teachers, students and even parents as a means of analyzing students’ learning and progress levels. These data can enable officials to recognize potential areas of needed improvements as well as maintain a strong connection to the parents of BPS students, in order to ensure that students are ready for college and more deeply engaged in their studies.

Upon first entering the site by logging onto sis.mybps.org with your library log-in credentials, visitors will be directed to a page of a grey background with several tabs highlighted in orange. From there you can click on the “Academics” tab near the top-left corner of the page to access your grades. In addition, teachers can also post the homework

for that day on SIS, which is then directly visible from the first page after the login menu. In comparison to the “student view” of the new online gradebook, the “teacher view,” accessible only by teachers, has a vast array of tools at its disposal, from planner or calendar to an online storage drive right there on SIS. The transition to an electronic database from the more traditional grading notebook that has been imposed on many teachers not only ensures easier access and update capabilities for BPS teachers, but also saves many trees in the process.

The transition from paper to electronic was not easy for many teachers, however, who were initially unaccustomed to and perhaps even unwilling to adopt the new SIS system. Throughout the first term, it was not uncommon to hear

that teachers complained about the new system that was put in place as well as to witness many teachers who were in the dark about how the new system worked. In addition, server errors with SIS were not uncommon – sometimes certain grades were inaccessible. SIS itself has also been offline for at least once this year already. In fact, some level of anti-SIS sentiment has already been building in the teacher and student body due to these reasons.

The first marking period was not such a great track record for this new online gradebook by any means. Nevertheless, it is a stepping stone into helping BPS become synchronized with the rapid expansion of Internet usage and reliance of the younger generation. With its official launch in 2013, perhaps we can expect much more from SIS.

## 'Tis the Season for Video Games

By **BILL ZHOU, III & EDEN SHI, I**  
STAFF WRITER AND SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

It is that time of the year again: the holiday season. This is the time when many of the year’s most anticipated video games are released. From October to December, you can expect plenty of quality titles from renowned franchises of all genres for all consoles and systems. Here are some quick summaries of each game and our rating for it.

7/10. Medal of Honor: Warfighter is the second title of Electronic Arts’ (EA) rebooted series that takes place in modern day. Enemies are taken directly from real life, ranging from pirates in Somalia to terrorists in Pakistan. Warfighter is unique in that the protagonists are based on real life special forces, including United States Navy SEALs and the United Kingdom Special Air Service. This video game is also extremely realistic; several Navy SEALs were reprimanded for helping the video game producers despite military regulations. The game has been panned, however,

for its flat gameplay and its stereotypical characters. Also, like its predecessor Medal of Honor, which was set in Afghanistan, it has attracted a lot of controversy.

8.5/10. Call of Duty: Black Ops 2, which was released on November 13 for the Xbox 360, PS3 and PC, is arguably the most anticipated game of this year. It features a new campaign set in the year of 2025, where the player’s choices impact the plot. The ninth game of Activision’s flagship franchise also boasts an updated zombie mode and adds even more features, such as a new Create-A-Class system. It follows the same formula, however, that has been overused in the previous Call of Duty titles. Along with Warfighter, it will be one of the first games to be featured on Nintendo’s Wii U platform.

9/10. Halo 4, which was released on November 6 for the Xbox 360, marks the return of Master Chief after a five-year absence. It is the second game developed by Microsoft-owned 343 Industries after Bungie’s retirement from the Halo series.

After saving humanity from the Covenant, Master Chief lands on the planet Requiem and must face both new and old enemies in an epic adventure of tragedy and survival. The game has received much praise by critics for its gorgeous graphics, deep storyline, campaign and addictive multiplayer. Spartan Ops, the highly praised multiplayer feature, is a mode in which multiple players can play episodes that are released periodically. Halo 4 is the first of the new trilogy with two more sequels planned for release.

9.5/10. Borderlands 2 boasts an updated gallery of weapons and a wider variety of settings than those of its predecessor. The weapons in Borderlands 2 are not just tools that can burn, shock, corrode or slag, but pieces of technology with personalities. With everything from the monotonic robotic shotgun that spouts unwanted advice to the cackling submachine gun, Borderlands 2 will definitely keep you entertained for hours on end as you go through the world of Pandora looking to find the perfect weapon. Although the core

of the gameplay remains the same, the skill system has much more depth and flash than its precursor.

10/10. Assassin’s Creed III, which was released on October 31 for the Xbox 360 and PS3, is the most recent title from the critically acclaimed Assassin’s Creed series and features a new protagonist in a new setting: the American Revolution. Assassin’s Creed III provides a rich single-player experience, complemented by an intriguing storyline while still retaining the traditional gameplay and combat system from past games of the series. Unusual for a video game, it is one of the first games to feature a half-Native American protagonist and the British as the primary antagonist. Assassin’s Creed III is the last of the Assassin’s Creed trilogy, which will later be replaced by a new trilogy featuring a new protagonist.

Of course, these are just a few of the many video games that will hit store shelves from October to December, but no matter what type of gamer you are, you will be able to find a game that suits your gaming needs this season.



# iPad Mini Comes up Short

By RONY THOMAS, I  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Apple has done it again. The multi-billion-dollar corporation has succeeded in spinning off yet another of its iconic iProducts into a slightly different version. This new product is not in the least bit necessary but has yet again sent the Apple fan club into a dizzying frenzy. I am talking about the iPad mini of course.

Ever since the rumors of a smaller iPad sprung up in the market, there was a lot of speculation about the price of such a product. Competitors who had released similar products, such as the Amazon Kindle and the Google Nexus 7, had set their price at an affordable \$199. With the releases of the fifth generation iPod touch at \$299 and the iPad at \$499, it was rather easy to predict that the iPad mini would cost somewhere between these amounts. I do not know about others, but I see a problem when a company releases a

product that is supposed to compete with a cheaper rival product. Also, it seems that the financial bigwigs in New York thought so as well. The headline Wall Street Journal article a few hours after the release of the pointless product read: “Apple Shares Drop: \$329 iPad Mini Underwhelms Wall Street.” Interestingly enough, however, Apple sold three million of these tablets during its opening weekend.

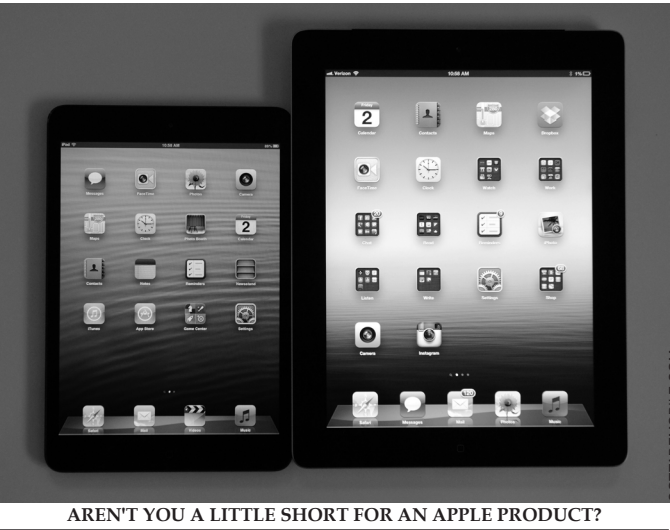
The new iPad mini has a 7.9-inch screen, compared to the regular iPad’s 9.7-inch screen, and weighs just under 0.69 pounds. Some reviewers believe that the iPad mini is a step back for Apple in terms of incorporating new technology into its products, considering that its overhyped retina display is not available in the iPad mini, and the A5 processor in it is as strong as the ones in the iPhone 5 and fourth generation iPad. The design cues seem to indicate that the new product is intended to be more portable than the current larger iPad and that it is usable

with one hand. Newsflash—that is why we have an iPhone.

Data shows that 42 percent of the iPad mini sales have been generated by previous PC owners, followed by iPad users at 29 percent and Kindle Fire users at 13 percent, all of whom were looking to replace their primary devices. So what Apple has succeeded in doing here is preserving its global sales while dealing a brutal blow to one of its main competitors, Microsoft. Apple’s prediction that the iPad mini would be ousting Windows PCs just blows my mind, but what I do know is that it has once again proven that no one knows Apple’s own limit in the consumer

world besides Apple.

Let me remind my avid pro-Apple readers that all the opinions stated in this



# 4 Ways the World Could End

By ALICIA ZHANG, IV  
STAFF WRITER

As we all know, the Mayans predicted that the world will end on December 21, 2012. Even if that was true, they never told us how. Scientists all around the world are making their own predictions on how the world is going to end. Most of their predictions are very similar. Here are three plausible predictions and one possible, but extremely unlikely prediction.

The first scenario is that an asteroid will fall and impact the Earth. This is not an “If it will happen” scenario, but a “When it will happen” scenario, for 50-meter large asteroids strike earth every hundred years or so. These asteroids are large enough and powerful enough to flatten a city and are often uncharted. The last big asteroid landed about a hundred years ago in a remote area in Siberia. Since it was so remote, no one was injured. But for an asteroid to take out life on Earth, the asteroid would have to be the size of a small planet. If an asteroid this size were to impact the Earth, only a few organisms would survive. The odd of fatality per lifetime due to an asteroid impact is one in 700, 000 chance and is a hundred percent preventable. Scientists can identify the potential impactors and blow them up or push them out of the way. For now, NASA is sure that no Earth-killer asteroids are on a near-term collision course with Earth.

Another prediction is the eruption

of a super volcano or multiple super volcanoes. Although large scale eruptions happen roughly on a 25 million year timescale, there have been a few eruptions of super volcanoes in the last few hundred years, and these have greatly impacted the world. The eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines significantly cooled the planet from 1991 to 1992. This also occurred in Indonesia with the eruption of the volcanic island Krakatoa in 1883 and in Java with the eruption of Mount Tambora. A super volcano closer to home is Yellowstone. Yes, Yellowstone. Yellowstone lies on top of a massive magma chamber making it a regional super volcano. If it explodes, it could wipe out people living between the Rockies and Appalachian mountains the next time it erupts. It is believed that the eruption can occur as near as tomorrow and as far as the next few thousand years.

If all else fails, the sun’s death would surely cause the world to end. It is already certain that the world will end in about five billion years when it falls into an expanding sun. It is natural for stars to turn into red giants near the end of their lifespan and inner planets. Terrestrial inhabitants do not need to worry; however, they will be there when

the sun explodes. All living organisms on earth will be fried to crisps earlier by the heat of the growing star, the sun.

Here is a possible, but extremely unlikely scenario. A black hole could appear and suck our planets and the seven other planets into it, along with other space related objects. In case you do not know exactly what a black hole is, it is a bottomless gravitational pit from which not even light can escape. It is believed that now through every spiral galaxy (including our own) has a super massive black hole at its center. Smaller black holes, formed by the collapse of large stars can be expected to keep moving in the same orbits around galactic centers as they did before the collapse. Currently, it is not possible to track and see black holes and watch the behavior of other astronomical



bodies to figure out where they might be lurking. We can, however, notice a black hole as it approaches our solar system. The black hole would cause changes in the light of other stars as the light is bent by the black hole’s massive gravity. When the black hole arrives, the sun, planets and asteroids would go into a spiral orbit around the hole and be gradually sucked into it. The possibility of a natural black hole sucking in the planets is one in a trillion and is unpreventable. The nearest legitimate threat of a black hole, however, is 16 hundred light years away. Some people think it is possible to create our own black hole right here on Earth. Believe it or not, a black hole was almost created back in 2008 when a flurry of lawsuits appeared due to the firing up of a Large Hadron Collider outside of Geneva, Switzerland. People were worried that this machine could create a mini-singularity that would gobble up the planet. The machine, however, broke down a few days later.

Whether you believe the world is going to end on December 21 or not, it is inevitable that the world is going to end. Our most solid prediction is that Earth will end due to the death of the sun in five billion years. It is likely that the world could end sooner due to other events. Although only a few possibilities are listed here, it is certain that the chances of any of these events occurring in our lifetime are slim. So on December 21, get up on time and go to school and enjoy the last day before the holiday break.

# How Google is Affecting Your Life

By BILL ZHOU, III  
STAFF WRITER

Google, Inc. was founded in 1994 for the purpose of creating a good and effective search engine. 18 years later, it has become one of the largest corporations in the world, ranking at number 73 on the Fortune 500 of 2012, making a revenue of about 38 billion dollars. Google currently owns dozens of products and services that millions of people use everyday all over the world. Examples of these include: Google Maps, Google Images, Google Earth, Google Translate, Google Drive, the Android operating system, YouTube, social networking site Google Plus and the popular internet browser Google Chrome.

Google has had such an enormous

impact on technology that the company affects many people’s daily lives, including many students here at Boston Latin School. Edward Wang (III) uses Google Search, Google Images, Google Maps, and Gmail. He relies on them everyday, especially for schoolwork. “Google has saved me on a lot of school projects,” he says. Kevin Su (III) says that life without Google would be very difficult. “Without Google I wouldn’t have a good email or search engine!” he exclaims. Students also noted that thanks to Google’s search engine, they no longer have to go to libraries to find books for research papers because they can use Google to find all of the information on the internet.

Despite all of its innovations, Google is not perfect. Since there are many areas and fields of technology

that other companies surpass Google in, teenagers do not believe that Google will surpass larger companies like Microsoft and Apple anytime soon. Olexander Kuzmenko (III) says: “Google is known for their software, not their hardware.” One major example of this is that unlike Apple, Google must depend on other companies in order to build its Android smartphones and tablets. Edward Wang (III) points out that bigger companies are better than Google in certain fields because they have started earlier and thus have more experience. Microsoft began making software many years before Google and started working on the internet. Apple also entered the mobile phone market and seized hold of it a year before Google launched Android. “Once you get a head start, it’s hard to catch up,” Edward Wang (III) says.

Of course, in no way does this mean that Google is declining or that it will not expand. Multiple phones as well as tablets that use Android made by different companies are released each week. Google Chrome has been the most-used internet browser for seven months in a row after surpassing Mozilla’s Firefox. Google’s search engine is at no risk of being surpassed by its competitors, Microsoft’s Bing and Yahoo’s Search. Google is also planning on making its ultra-fast internet service, Google Fiber, available soon across the entire nation. The company is even experimenting with future technologies such as driverless cars. Google, Inc. may not be the world’s largest technology company yet, but its products and services will continue to change our lives every day.



# FORUM

## Action Or Evasion

By **SOPHIA YANG, IV**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

High schools in Canton, Massachusetts have recently adopted a new training program to prepare students against armed attackers: ALICE. The acronym stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. Unlike previous protocol, ALICE and similar programs across the nation emphasize individual thoughts and actions rather than the passivity of evasion. For example, it might advocate counteraction like throwing objects to distract the attacker or even assaulting the attacker as an effective defense. Not everyone, however, is happy with this new approach. Such unconventional programs have prompted heated debates over their wide array of pros and cons, and have garnered attention from everyone from military personnel to parents and teachers.

There are several flaws in programs like ALICE. The first and most problematic is that it is highly unlikely that the plans would work exactly as projected. Many self-defense trainers, individuals with military backgrounds and law enforcement officers support the idea of giving students the knowledge to physi-

cally defend themselves in case of an attack. Supporters of ALICE and like-minded programs believe that existing lockdown plans result in children becoming “sitting ducks.” Even rudimentary counteraction training will be valuable, as it will increase a student’s chance of subduing attackers both in school and outside of school.

These proponents of ALICE, however, also admit that it takes months of extensive training to master one’s reflexes in facing a sudden situation. As such, a few classes in self-defense would not increase students’ skills to the level required for them to be able to defend themselves well in a dangerous situation. Teaching them rudimentary skills may in fact only endanger them more, by increasing the likelihood of an altercation between the student and the armed attacker. Many are also rightly concerned that having students hurl projectiles will only further irritate the assailant and cause him or her to incur greater bloodshed.

Another area of concern is the age at which students will be eligible for learning counteraction techniques. Currently, most of the programs like ALICE are targeted at the high school level. It should definitely not be expanded to

younger children or middle school students. Those in lower grades are not wise enough to make judgments in critical moments on whether or not to act. If they did act, it is somewhat likely that their actions would not be helpful because they are not fully-developed physically, and as a result are more vulnerable and easier to overcome. High school students such as those at Boston Latin School are older and therefore better candidates for programs like ALICE, as they possess better judgment and are more physically capable.

What nearly everyone seems to agree on, however, is that teachers and staff should be better trained to protect their students. That is, in fact, a better place to start. School districts ought to fund programs for teachers prior to funding counteraction programs like ALICE for students. Teachers as grown adults and as authority figures in the schools ought to be capable of acting as protectors for their charges, no matter how old their students are.

Regardless of what will ultimately be decided, one thing is for sure: implementing these programs must be considered by the community, for the community.

### Spotlight

#### Connor Pease



By **ALEC MACNEIL, I**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Indulge me for a moment, dear readers, and recall Frank Ocean’s chorus in “No Church in the Wild.” It is certainly true that the lyrics read, “What’s a god to a non-believer?” but what Ocean, in his syrupy sweet falsetto, should really be serenading us with is “What’s a god to Connor Pease?”

Pease. It’s a word that leaps off of this newspaper and drills its way into your cranium, burrowing deep into your subconscious. It’s a word that sends tremors through the halls of Boston Latin, tremors of the same magnitude on the Richter Scale as his footsteps. It’s a word we’ve all come to fear, but at the same time...love.

This living legend has quite the reputation under his overalls’ waist line. This is a man who used to consume nothing but diet Snapple for weeks just to make weight for wrestling. This is a man who makes his own clothing by cutting the sleeves off of GAP hoodies (these items are referred to affectionately as “Connor Clothes”). This is a man with the grace of the late great Patrick Swayze in Dirty Dancing, yet at the same time the general manliness of Bryan Callen. This is a man who I saw literally crush another human with his own body weight on the football field. Don’t understand my examples? Don’t let Connor find out, or you will encounter his infamous alter ego, “The Masked Man,” who leaps off of rooftops onto his prey.

None of these statements are lies. I literally witnessed Connor jump off of a roof and land on another roof completely unscathed.

I have considered myself a Pease Friend for most of my life. I remember vividly the first time I encountered the colossus at our mutual “friend” Brendan McDonough’s house. It was like the scene in Step Brothers, when Dale and Brennan meet for the first time. Two alpha males, face to face. The tension was murderous. After ten minutes of awkward and uncomfortable eye contact, we shook hands and, if you will indulge me once more, it has been quite the wild ride.

Connor let me inside of his world, and we started doing Connor things together. Connor things are just like normal things, except normal people can’t do them – things like juggling an axe or taking selfies of ourselves dressed as policemen. The greatest Connor thing I can remember occurred at junior prom last year, when the mood was right and the song was tight. Connor and I started dancing. It felt like time stopped. So many questions floated through my mind. Why didn’t I ask Connor to prom? Why am I this good at dancing? Who invented liquid soap and why? I remember thinking to myself at that moment, as my eyes closed and his fluttered shut, that I had become a man.

Above all the enigmas that exist in his mythos, there is a single highest truth I hold dear: he is there for me. There is no judgment in his eyes when I express myself to him through physical tasks like punching and biting and eating. He is my friend and I love him like a brother.

## Feel Good Inc.



DOES MY INSURANCE COVER THIS?

By **JAKE ZHU, II**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Question Three made its way onto the ballot in Massachusetts this past Election Day, it reignited the controversy over drug policy reform that had long been waged. The law exempts qualified patients, who are in dire need of the drug, from all civil penalties for marijuana usage. Those who are diagnosed with attenuating medical conditions and have acquired a legal certification from their doctors would be able to obtain the drug from 35 state-controlled centers that legally produce the drug.

Although its fate seemed uncertain for a little while, the bill passed with the support of 63 percent of the voters. Massachusetts thus finally followed in the footsteps of 18 other states which have embraced this

badly-needed drug law reform. This is a great cause for celebration, especially because the initiative prevailed despite anti-marijuana voters’ attempt to perpetuate misconceptions about the drug.

Despite the fact that the consensus in Massachusetts finally voted for the law, many opponents at first argued against the legalization of medical marijuana. One of them was in fact the powerful Massachusetts Medical Society, who insisted that legalizing marijuana is futile to the sick and diseased because there has not been adequate scientific evidence to confirm its benefits. This claim, while assertive, is completely unfounded. Numerous scientific studies have shown that there are many positive effects from using cannabis. An \$8.7 million California state-funded study showed that it specifically relieves nerve pain, strokes and even HIV

symptoms. There is also an abundance of anecdotal evidence from American citizens about its medical use, like Eric McCoy, a Boston resident and regular user of marijuana. He swears that he would be unable to function without the therapeutic effects of the drug.

Another concern among anti-marijuana voters is whether the risks ultimately outweigh the benefits. Although scientific research has found that regular marijuana abuse can cause coughing and distorted perception, the law states that only patients with enervating medical conditions can use marijuana. This means that even if the user is inflicted with the side effects of cannabis, the ultimate net result would still be positive since the major life-threatening disease at hand is mitigated in intensity.

Even if cannabis is ascertained to be deleterious, does that give the government the right to regulate it? Is it not the individual choice of every free citizen of the United States to decide what is best for themselves? What one believes to be morally righteous, another may disagree. Since morality is a very equivocal idea, a substance should not be curbed simply because some people do not “feel right” to allow the consumption of it. When the concept of morality injects itself into the legalization debate, it tends to override the very fundamental values of the American Republic. We are a government in which the individual liberties are protected against the oppression of the masses by permitting the beliefs of the majority to triumph over the individual’s personal choice. After all, legalization of cannabis does not force people to buy the drug, but banning it prevents those who need it for medical purposes from having the choice of utilizing marijuana.

Thankfully, the Massachusetts voters saw the medical benefits, the minimal risks and the expansion of personal freedom that would accompany a medical legalization of marijuana and thus voted to enact such a law.



# FORUM

## Sumus Secundi

By JAKE ZHANG, I  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

“Sumus Primi.” We are, so they say, the first public high school, not only historically, but also academically. Why then does the U.S. News & World Report rank us only 62nd in the United States and second in Massachusetts? More importantly, how can we improve our rank? Here are some suggestions:

**1. Reduce the number of admitted students.** Boston Latin School accepts about four hundred students each year, which is fairly typical for a high school. But considering that we have six grades, not four, one can quickly see how overcrowding can be a problem. Boston Latin School currently has 2,400 students, while the national average is about 700. Boston Latin Academy, another public school in our city, has only 1000 students. Similarly, our student-teacher ratio is 1:22, while the national average is 1:12. Reducing the number of students admitted every year solves both of these problems and more. Fewer students mean smaller class sizes and less crowded hallways. Students would get more individualized attention with a lower student-teacher ratio. In addition, the school would be able to allot more resources for each student without changing the budget. Finally, by requiring higher grades and ISEE scores to gain acceptance, we would improve our average MCAS scores with no change in curriculum.

**2. Revive the honors system. Although the system was retained for the mathematics courses, it was removed for all other subjects.** Honors classes traditionally serve two purposes. First, they make sure that the brightest students engage in challenging courses that help them excel. Second, they help other students learn at their own pace in an atmosphere that isn’t as competitive as the ones in honors courses. With this system taken away, neither group benefits because they are impeding each other’s progress. If we are to make greater progress in the core subjects, the honors system needs to be brought back.

**3. Improve student-faculty relations.** Boston Latin School prides itself in its rich history in democracy. After all, five of our alumni signed the Declaration of Independence, and many more fought in the Revolutionary War. But when it comes to student government, our school is at a major disadvantage. Contrast our student government with that of Newton South High School. Newton South has a very well developed political infrastructure, consisting of a cabinet for each class and a student senate. Boston Latin School, by comparison, has only a four-person cabinet and only for the senior class. As a result, our student body has very little opportunity to help direct the future of the school and to voice what they think is best for the students. If the students and the administration communicate and collaborate more effectively, Boston Latin

School will improve.

These are just a few suggestions that might help Boston Latin School climb in the rankings. Although in some areas we will never be able to compete with elite private schools, there is no reason why we should not always be in the running for being the best public school in the nation. If we fail to reform our admissions requirements, if we do not restore the honors level courses that were removed and if we do not improve student-faculty communication, Boston Latin School may never reach the top of the rankings again.

Let us note though, that the rankings’ statistics and data do not account for our stubborn perseverance in the face of adversity, whether in the form of vampires or college admissions. It is because of this unquantifiable strength that I fully believe that Boston

Latin School will be able to improve and rise to the top of the national rankings. Besides, our motto is not “Sumus Primi” for nothing.



WHERE'D OUR EDUCATION GO?

# MainstreamMu\$icWoes

# Critiquing Competition

By MICHAEL SITCAWICH, I  
FORUM EDITOR

The medley of Van Morrison’s song-writing and passion in his 1968 album, Astral Weeks, is an example of something almost foreign in our current society: real music. Real music is, in essence, a piece of a person’s soul exposed to the world. It’s an experience expressed through lyrics that capture overwhelming sentiments, and it turns those sentiments into something personal, original and honest. Real music creates a love for what a musician represents, rather than a love for a catchy melody, but it has become a rarity today. Mainstream music fans value Auto-Tuned vocals and laughable lyrics over talent and musical ability.

In 1964, blues and R&B singer Sam Cooke released “A Change is Gonna Come,” a song that has become symbolic of the Civil Rights Movement. The ballad includes a heavy orchestra and lyrics primarily based on Cooke’s rejection from a “whites only” motel, and the accidental drowning of his son. From the moment Cooke begins singing, his pain is evident. Cooke uses his stellar vocals to address the discrimination he has endured, but he expresses hope for inevitable change. Cooke’s ability to become a representation of social reform is honest and poignant—something we don’t see in today’s music industry. This is because Cooke, instead of many artists on Billboard’s Top 100, sang from the heart to inspire optimism and not from the head to fill his bank account.

Nearly fifty years after Cooke’s release of “A Change is Gonna Come” came Animal, the debut album of singer-songwriter Ke\$ha. Processing her vocals with Auto-Tune, Ke\$ha’s electropop style has skyrocketed her to fame and fortune. In her biggest commercial success, “Tik Tok,” Ke\$ha sings about brushing her teeth with “a bottle of Jack” and meeting boys who tried to “touch [her] junk, junk.” While the ‘Snookies’ of our society may consider Ke\$ha’s tribulations as pressing contemporary issues, many people

don’t. We, instead, see Ke\$ha brazenly challenge everything that makes music an art. Her superficial lyrics lack the soul, the meaning and the beauty of real music. She doesn’t represent an emotion or an era or an idea. Instead, Ke\$ha represents the artificiality which has become modern mainstream music. She sings for the fame and fortune she has gained—the fame and fortune she has earned, since her current fan base is much larger than that of musical geniuses like Florence + the Machine and Fleet Foxes.

Real music is the witty lyrics and smooth, crisp voice of Nat King Cole. It’s the first few albums of Coldplay, intelligent and sincere. It is, of course, the revolutionary greatness of the Beatles. Real music is not the shallowness of Britney Spears, whose voice has been virtually replaced by high-pitched Auto-Tune. It’s certainly not anything Katy Perry has ever released (well, maybe except for her monumental achievement in “Peacock”). Do not be mistaken, these successful music performers are geniuses in their own rights. Catchy tunes and suggestive lyrics have earned them eternal admirers and more money than most people could ever dream of. But they aren’t artists. Real artists make real music that address problems and emotions that cannot be expressed by singing about getting intoxicated at a club or repeating the word “baby” 200 times in three minutes. Real artists sing with purpose about reflections on their lives and their society.

In recent years, I’ve often questioned whether or not real music will continue to exist. Artificiality has dominated the airwaves since the late twentieth century, and many respectable artists like Coldplay have turned away from their roots and moved toward what commercial audiences prefer: nonsense. Some days while flipping through the radio stations, I find myself cursing the abomination of contemporary “music.” And when Selena Gomez comes on the radio, I just turn it off, put my headphones in my ears and turn on my iPod to hear Van Morrison play away.

By TERRY NI, IV  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We face fierce competition all the time. We saw it in the 2012 presidential election and we see it every day in school. Does not everyone, at some point, wish to escape from the pressures of BLS? We compete against each other for admission, on every test, in every class. During the afterschool stress workshop, most students testified that much of their stress came from pressure. Why do we not just remove competition from our school? We can share our work and alleviate our stress through cooperation. Unfortunately, we are not perfect. Competition is necessary.

Realistically, we are not always able to work together. As most understand, in many group projects, there are the controllers and the slackers. The controllers complete the entire project while the slackers barely contribute, despite the fact that everyone should be “cooperating.” The slackers are not motivated to work since they assume the controllers will do everything. This lack of competition does not create happiness, but disaster. Now imagine an entire class—or even a grade—as a large group. Such a thought is just not practical.

An obvious benefit of competition is that it encourages people to accomplish more. It is human nature to want to perform better than those around us. By creating various contests, people naturally strive to achieve at a higher level. They need no encouragement except from other people who also desire to succeed. This not only makes the lives of parents and teachers easier, but it also makes our lives easier because we can improve by simply following our natural instincts. Everyone loves to win. Competition inspires us to win, and there is nothing

terrible about that.

In a way, competition brings people together more than cooperation would. With cooperation, people are forced to get along. With competition, people are motivated by the same goal: to win. Additionally, contestants in a competition have the same interests, since they are taking part in the same event. This is the formula that brings people together, especially because most competitions contain both individual and team activity. Competitors help and motivate each other. In fact, some of my closest friends are people I compete against.

Pressure is simply something we have to deal with. Our lives revolve around competition. Rather than complain about it, we should appreciate it. Even if pressure can be irritating, it certainly cannot be eliminated. Society runs by competition, so we might as well be accustomed to it. Companies compete for market domination, politicians compete for a position, athletes compete for a rank, graduates compete for a job, artists compete for favorable reviews, scientists compete for discoveries... the list is infinite. We are simply part of a world in which students compete for prizes, grades and college acceptances.

Sure, stress can make you feel trapped. However, the benefits of competition easily outweigh this side effect. Next time you feel the jitters about a meet, match, contest, test, just think: Because you are feeling this pressure, you are already on the right track. Though competition may be uncomfortable and the results may be unfavorable, the anxiety and sadness from losing means that people are still driven to compete. That is always better than not being determined at all. Competition is so pervasive; we just need to cooperate with it.



FORUM

# Should the Electoral College be preserved?



Yes

BY MING YING, IV  
STAFF WRITER

The sweet scent of Election Day still lingers in air, but for some, the past fifty-six presidential elections have left nothing but a trail of misery. They say our current voting system, the Electoral College, is undemocratic, but they are blind to fact that it has successfully guided our country for almost 250 years. We’ve seen several presidential election disputes and dramatic changes to our society, but no obstacle or instability has undermined this system.

You might be asking yourself how, with the controversy surrounding the 2000 Bush v. Gore election, the results could’ve been fair. Surely it would be more “fair” to depend on just the popular vote, right? The answer is easy to see when one examines the breakdown of the votes in 2000. In 2000, Al Gore lost the election but carried the popular vote with a slim margin by appealing to large urban populations. He won the support of 71 percent of major cities but only 37 percent of rural areas. If he had won, this huge split in support would likely have caused a great divide between rural and urban America.

This is the flaw in relying on the popular vote. Candidates would inevitably flock to metropolitan areas while sparsely populated states would be left behind in the dust. After all, with twice as many people in Manhattan than in Wyoming, the loopholes in the popular vote are just too glaring.

Critics, however, protest that rural states will have the same diminished role in politics with or without the Electoral College. This is not the case. While fewer people would logically have a smaller say in government, the Electoral College grants each state a prominent voice. For instance, only 0.1 percent of people in the United States live in Wyoming, yet the state is guaranteed 0.5 percent of the electoral votes, five times greater than its popular vote. Furthermore, in a highly contested race, even one electoral vote can have a significant impact. Instead of focusing on populous centers, candidates must cover every region of the country in order to win the presidency.

On top of the issues of equality and spreading the votes, the Electoral College is a stable foundation upon which presidential elections rest. Through the popular vote, third-party candidates can easily distort the outcome of an election by drawing away voters from the main candidates. With the Electoral College, however, a contender must win the majority of the votes in each state in order to receive the electoral votes. In addition, it generally creates a wider margin of victory between the two candidates. For instance, although polls showed Obama barely ahead on the day of the election, he finished with over one hundred more electoral votes than Romney. These results add strength and authenticity to the presidential election.

In essence, those who support the abolition of the Electoral College view the election process far too simply. True, mayors and governors are elected to office through the popular vote, but these are less significant positions within local governments. To properly handle the national vote, we need a more complex, comprehensive approach than the simple “one person, one vote” method. In our country, which has a complicated history of small versus large states and rural versus urban, how could such an inadequate system as the popular vote possibly be expected to function? In a society where the majority of the population lives in very dense areas, how could anyone expect the popular vote to represent the agricultural sections of our country? As history has shown us, we must choose the proven over the imagined, and that is an Electoral College by the people, for the people, with liberty and justice for all.

No

BY KENNETH CRUZ, II  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As we all know, the Electoral College was established by our Founding Fathers to elect the President and Vice President of the United States. Citizens argued in 1787 that the Electoral College should be implemented so that the presidential election would be left to educated, well informed politicians instead of ill-informed common people. Its purpose was to create a safeguard against the disillusioned masses. This, however, is not necessary in 2012. With the rise of social media and other forms of communication, the general public is constantly provided with information about each candidate until Election Day. We are not the “uneducated” mass of American citizens our Founders referred to; we have the means to quickly research each candidate. There is no way you couldn’t have at least heard of Obama and Romney unless you’re living under a rock.

We know that each state is assigned a certain number of electoral votes, which is decided by the redistribution of 538 electoral votes based on state population every ten years. This is why California has 55 electoral votes and North Dakota has three. I am firmly against the fact that under this current Electoral College system, my vote in Massachusetts is not as valuable as the votes of people in Florida. Florida has 29 electoral votes, the same as Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico combined. Thus, the decision made in Florida has a greater impact on the results of the presidential election, the future of this country, than any of the other individual states I mentioned.

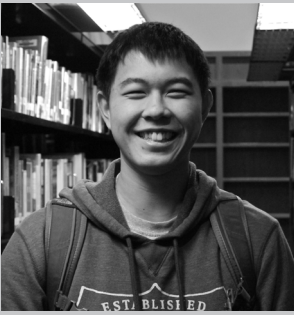
Perhaps the most unfair aspect of the Electoral College system is that a candidate can win by attaining enough electoral votes without winning the popular vote. In a true democracy, the popular vote is the most direct way that an ordinary citizen can get his or her voice heard. A plurality in the popular vote literally shows that a larger number of the population voted for certain candidate over the other. So how is it fair that a candidate can win the election and not the popular vote? It’s not. In fact, this happened 12 years ago, when Al Gore won more popular votes than George W. Bush, but lost electorally. An uproar followed, and rightfully so.

Imagine being a Republican in California or perhaps a Democrat in Texas. Since these states have been historically Democratic and Republican, respectively, then why should these outliers even vote? The Electoral College makes their votes virtually useless. If there were no Electoral College, everyone would feel as though their individual vote counted. This is the feeling a real democracy brings.

In addition, the Electoral College makes it extremely difficult for a third party to succeed. It is almost impossible for a candidate not in a major party to win electoral votes; he or she is constantly dominated by candidates representing the Democratic and Republican Party.

There are two good solutions to this current Electoral College system. The first is to decimate it and rely on popular vote to elect the President and Vice President. The second is to call for a reform to have the nation follow a system that separates electoral votes by district. Then there would be more campaigning throughout the country and a more accurate depiction of public opinion while still keeping the Electoral College. Unfortunately, the current Electoral College system is too flawed to persist.

## Forum Question Should the Electoral College be preserved?



“No because there have been presidents who have won the electoral vote but lost the popular vote.”  
-Jason Yung, I



“No because it circumvents the American democratic system.”  
-Jake Zhu, II



“Yes we should keep it because they know politics better than the average person.”  
-Kate Casey, III



“No. I don’t think it’s fair because what if you vote for a representative who doesn’t chose who you want to be chosen.”  
-Michele Ma, IV



“Yes. Well because I like that we vote for somebody who votes for somebody else.”  
-Eli Borovoy, V



“No. Because I feel like it would add one extra unnecessary step because everyone’s voting anyway.”  
-Shannon Fitzgerald, VI



# A&ERocking Humor Better Today

By **ANDREW QUINN, I**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is midnight on Saturday at the AMC Boston Common Theater, and nobody in my four-person cadre knows what to expect. Only one of us has ever seen The Rocky Horror Picture Show, and he’s the B-movie fanatic of our circle, knowing its history more than anything else. Why is this one movie, made in 1975, still shown in theaters worldwide, every week, at midnight? Is it to cater to a rabid fan base? Is the Full Body Cast Theater Company responsible for showing this theatrical rendition of the musical? Is The Rocky Horror Picture Show just that good?

It turned out to be all of the above, in staggering, camp-tastic quantities. The instant we came into the theater and saw the dancing arrays of lights and the preview screen, which read, “30 SECONDS TILL SHOWTIME!” I could tell we were in for something amazing. The advice to sit in front was extremely well-justified.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show is a movie. It’s also a play. It’s a play, of the movie, with the actors lip-syncing the word. As a first-timer (a “virgin” as they call them, in typical Rocky humor) your attention is divided between watching the actors (who are both on the ground and in the first few rows of the seating) and the movie, which is projected on the screen above. Especially interesting is

the gender reversal the Full Body Cast pulls on at least half the characters in the film. A transvestite gentleman, from “transsexual Transylvania,” played by a woman? That’s just the tip of the Rocky iceberg.

The idiosyncratic presentation of the movie isn’t even half of what really makes it, shall we say, so horrifically hilarious.

to showing to the narrator that, in no uncertain terms, one specific part of his body is so small as to be almost nonexistent. (You guessed correctly, his neck.) The sheer creativity of the raunchy humor and insults that the audience flings at the show are indicative of what the past 30 years have been dedicated to: tuning, refining, and forging some of the most eloquent

admission to a secret cult of movie worshippers, fraternity boys, big egos, and even bigger divas that would make Brian Blessed of Flash Gordon tear up in admiration. Don’t think for a moment the jokes are stale, either. There were more than a couple of them referencing very recent events, such as the election, and the facets of Bostonian life we’d all recognize. One of my personal favorites was a man flipping switches on a machine while a member of the audience yelled, “One year at M.I.T.! \*switch\* Two years at M.I.T.!”

What’s missing from this description? The music of the musical! It can be summed up in two words: “Sweet Transvestite.” If you want a taste of the show-stopping power of the music, the bombastic riffs harkening back to the days of the later work of The Rolling Stones, Queen, and Boston, and the genius of the lyrics themselves, just give this little ditty a lookup on YouTube. You’ll be hooked.

There are a plethora of reasons for the show’s long-lasting popularity: its engaging presentation, the happy-go-lucky nature of the movie itself, and its great music. But the most important one is the audience participation. After going once, you want to go on the Internet. You want to look these jokes up, you want to be able to parrot them and join in the joyous celebration of spoofing cheesy, lovable horror movies, like the rest of the crowd. And that necessitates going to see The Rocky Horror Picture Show twice, three times, or even five.



RAUNCHY HUMOR AT ITS BEST

What really takes the cake is the metric ton of audience participation, ranging from pelting the actors, actresses, and surprise guest star with rice in the wedding scene

burns imaginable.

Yes, The Rocky Horror Picture Show’s fandom is one of the greatest out there. It’s as if one paid 12 dollars to gain

## Best Thrift Stores in Boston

By **ALLIE KENNELLY, II**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With fashion trends continuously changing, we are faced with the challenge of keeping up with the latest styles without breaking bank. Every week new styles are falling off the runways and into our stores, but how are we supposed to keep up with these ever-changing trends without spending hundreds of dollars? Well, in your efforts to remain stylish you have a couple of options. You can either stroll endlessly down Newbury Street, in hopes of finding a good sale among blocks of high-end and overpriced boutiques, or you can venture into one of Boston’s many secondhand, thrift and consignment shops. Whether you’re looking for high fashion, originality, or vintage, these five stores are your best bet for inexpensive, quality clothing.

**Greenest Consignment Store: Buffalo Exchange**  
180 Harvard Avenue Allston, MA 02134

When Buffalo Exchange was first opened, its owners hoped to promote sustainable shopping by offering costumers a token in exchange for not using plastic bags to carry home their new clothes. The store houses a variety of young, edgy and inexpensive apparel and accessories, much of which originates from Urban Outfitters and American Apparel. So if you’re tired of paying ridiculously high prices at stores like these, then I recommend you take a trip to Allston during your next shopping spree. Every item in the store is unique and fashion-forward, making Buffalo Exchange the perfect place to purchase stylish accessories that

can spice up any outfit. Despite the many misconceptions about secondhand stores, Buffalo Exchange is clean and organized, making it one of the nicer of the thrift stores that I’ve been in.

**High End Consignment: Second Time Around**  
176 Newbury Street Boston, MA 02115  
As high school students, most of

ing deals for high-end designer fashion, are probably out of most high school students’ price ranges, but careful perusing will lead to some great finds including some items that were never worn!

**High End Consignment: Rescue**  
297 Newbury Street Boston, MA 02115  
Rescue is a buy, sell and trade bou-

eyes and little bit of digging, there’s lots of vintage and modern fashion to be found here.

**Most Original or For a Good Cause: Boomerangs**

716 Centre St. Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
While getting a great deal is always exciting, finding original and cool vintage clothing is what makes thrift-shopping so much fun. There is absolutely no shortage of originality at Boomerang’s Jamaica Plain location. This is probably the only store where you can find men’s red cowboy boots, paisley printed jeans, a sequin blazer and an ugly Christmas bowtie, and then walk to the back of the store and find gently worn furniture and old records. Plus, if you’re wondering what to do with all those clothes you haven’t worn in months, Boomerang’s accepts all types of donations, from clothes, accessories, shoes, books, movies, music and furniture. If you’re donating old clothes to be sold in the store, or buying something new to add to your collection, all of the proceeds go to the AIDS Action Committee.

**Coordinated Chaos: Urban Renewals**  
122 Brighton Ave. Allston, MA 02134

Clean, cheap and organized is how I would describe this last store. While its atmosphere is nothing to boast about, it’s a great place to look for some inexpensive and stylish steals! Racks packed with merchandise line the store, making it very easy to find whatever it is you’re looking for. Whether that be men’s or women’s clothing, shoes, furnishings or books, prices rarely rise above five dollars, assuring that you’ll always feel like you’ve received the most for your money.



BANGIN’ DEALS FOR A BANGIN’ WARDROBE

us won’t feel the need to purchase Burberry boots or an Armani ball gown, but if you’re ever looking for a little bit of high fashion to add to your wardrobe, or if you just want some more daring pieces for whenever you’re feeling a little fancy, then any one of the three Second Time Around, Newbury Street locations is worth checking out. Most of the clothes at Second Time Around, while still amaz-

tique, where people can bring in their gently worn, trendy and seasonable clothes to be sold usually at 20 to 30 percent of its original retail price. They take in clothes based on style and condition, so you are guaranteed to find up-to-date trends and good quality clothing at this modern and central location. Like Second Time Around, most of the merchandise is designer and can get pretty expensive, but with trained



# A & E

## Burning RED

BY MEGAN GILLIS, I &  
CLARE VALLELY, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

On October 22, a musical gem was released for our listening pleasure: Taylor Swift’s fourth album RED. After months and months of fanfare surrounding this highly anticipated album, it finally entered our lives, truly changing the way we feel about Swift’s range as an artist. In the words of Taylor Swift herself, “This album is about the other kinds of love that I’ve recently fallen in and out of, love that was treacherous, sad, beautiful, and tragic. But most of all, this record is about love that was red.”

Since it debuted, RED has become the top selling album of 2012 after selling over 1.5 million copies. What strikes fans as so remarkable about this new CD is the skill with which Swift intertwines the sounds of country, pop and even rock. Swift’s RED rules Billboard’s Top

100 charts, but still appeals to fans of all genres. Three singles from the album were released earlier this year, giving fans a taste of the new sounds Swift embraces, particularly in “We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together,” the pop song of the summer, whose name speaks for itself. “Begin Again,” another single released in late September, displays the familiar sounds of Taylor we have seen in past albums, as well as her talents on the guitar. It recalls the bittersweet moments of love.

The album ranges from beautiful country-folk melodies such as “All Too Well,” “I Almost Do” and “Treacherous” to fun dance-ready songs such as “I Knew You Were Trouble” and “Starlight.” She even adds two male voices into the mix: those of Gary Lightbody to the track “The Last Time” and Ed Sheeran to the track “Everything Has Changed.” Both of these songs emphasize how Swift has matured in tone, crossing over into genres

she did not explore in her earlier music. Swift seems to be evolving as both she and her fans grow up, straying away from catchy bubble gum songs to beautiful ballads and fun acoustic tracks that all ages can both enjoy and relate to. Still, in her hit “22,” she sings about how she wants to enjoy her time as a 22-year-old and is in no rush to change her lyrics in hopes of switching over to an older audience.

Swift has received some criticism due to her tendency to come off as a boy-crazy, hopeless romantic in song after song. Her fan base, however, has not wavered. She may sing about the bittersweet realities of love, but she also never fails to deliver the perfect love song, which is exemplified in “Starlight.” Some have criticized RED for having a generic pop sound, which does not reflect the country style of Taylor’s voice. There has also been talk that she should no longer classify herself as a country artist as her albums drift from the classic country twang. Still, Taylor continues to dominate at events such as the Country Music Awards as well as the American Country Awards.

RED is really an album worth purchasing, not only for hardcore Taylor Swift fans, but also for anyone who enjoys listening to the versatility of Taylor’s irresistible love songs. This could possibly be one of her best albums yet and due to the critical acclaim it has received, this is probably true. Throughout the years, Swift has grown as an artist, surprising her fans every step of the way and coming out with an unforgettable new album this year. In short, there simply is no country or pop record cooler than this one.

## Spotlight

### Elin Dahal



BY EHIS OSIFO, I  
STAFF WRITER

Some of you may know Elin Dahal, some of you may think you know Elin Dahal, and some of you are probably like, “Who dat?” Regardless, if you want to get to know the man, the myth, the legend that is Elin Dahal, here are 20 things you should know about Elin the Nepalese Diesel:

1. He is Nepalese, not Indian. If you call him Indian, he will get an outraged look on his face and raise his shoulders and arms into the air, shouting “What?! WHAT?!” repeatedly as his voice gets higher and higher.
2. He’s a Luddite. For those of you who aren’t studying for your SATs, that means that he hates any and all forms of technology. Try bringing a Kindle near his face sometime.
3. He’s battling an abusive, torrid relationship with a Belgian lady named Stella.
4. He’s not funny. He thinks he is, but he’s not. Don’t humor him. It will only end badly for you.
5. His fashion icons are Ross Geller from NBC’s hit show Friends and Jerry Seinfeld.
6. He and his “malemen” play golf religiously. They even have a once a week T-time, which they call “golf-o-clock.” No ovaries allowed.
7. His favorite actor is Gary Busey. Especially Gary Busey in Walker, Texas Ranger.
8. He plays the timpani like it’s nobody’s business.
9. He is one of the founding fathers of the Boston Student Union.
10. Going back to number 4, he’s also really bad at celebrity impressions. Or any impressions, really.
11. His favorite show is Here Comes Honey Boo Boo.
12. His birthday is the same day as Christmas.
13. He hates Christmas.
14. He is often mistaken for That 70’s Show’s Fez or Community’s Abed Nadir.
15. He plays scrabble in the nude.
16. His favorite artists are Nickelback and Dr. Dre. Preferably both of them together.
17. His favorite movie is The Mist.
18. His favorite director is M. Night Shyamalan, especially after Lady in the Water.
19. He used to row for Community Rowing, Inc.
20. He will deny almost 90% of what is listed above, even though it is 100% true – trust me.



AFTER 56 BREAKUPS, TAYLOR’S STILL GOT IT

## Finger Lickin’ Good

EHIS OSIFO, I &  
GERALDINE VITTINI, I  
STAFF WRITER & A&E EDITOR

If you’re in the mood for actual food that not only tastes delicious, but is also inexpensive (and not “fast food gourmet”), then mosey on down to Soul Fire, which specializes in soul food with a twist in the corners of our tiny, below-freezing city, with locations in Allston and Brigham Circle. If you do take our advice and go to Soul Fire (which you should), their menu may overwhelm you with options ranging from ginger-infused collard greens to a full rack of barbecued ribs, which you can douse with three kinds of sauces: Pitboss, SoulFire and Fiery—also known as Hot, Hotter and Scalding to the uninitiated—and to Southern desserts like Kentucky pie.

Soul Fire is really a group kind of restaurant: its menu is so extensive and so incredibly appealing that it can only really be enjoyed with a huge group of friends, so everyone can order something different and share the plentiful portions.

If (when) you do go to Soul Fire, there are some things that you have to try, and we think it’s safe to say that Soul Fire is most definitely not a vegetarian restaurant:

The Mac & Cheese: These tiny

elbow noodles have the perfect ratio of cheese-to-spice with an infusion of three different cheeses—cheddar, American and Parmesan—and Soul Fire’s special spice rub that make this decadent appetizer one of our favorites. As if this lily weren’t gilded enough, to top it all off are crushed barbecue chips that add a pleasant crunch to the decadent creaminess of Soul Fire’s Mac & Cheese.

The Fried Chicken Sandwich: This double-fried sandwich won’t even make you feel guilty about the heart attack it

that more evident than in the pulled pork sandwich, a solid six-inch-tall tower of juicy, perfectly seasoned shredded pork sitting atop a toasted bun with pickles, lettuce and tomato. Tangy sauces dripping from the pork itself soak the bun, while Pitboss hot sauce takes your sandwich to a whole new dimension—it’s nothing short of a meat epiphany.

The Fried Dough: Words can’t even begin to describe the deliciousness that is this holy icon of a dessert. No matter how full you are after all the amazing food you have just consumed, you’re going to want your own fried dough—I’ve made the mistake of sharing mine, and it is not an experience I would like to repeat. Like many fried doughs, this one is topped with a healthy dosing of cinnamon and powdered sugar, but what places this fried dough on a pedestal higher than all other fried doughs you’ve had in your life is the additional, genius topping of homemade honey butter drizzled over the entirety of this Frisbee-sized piece of heaven.

From the funky ‘60s beat of Sly & the Family Stone playing in the background to the abundance of wet towelette disposals, this restaurant has got all the trappings of a classic soul food joint. So grab a group of friends or go by yourself (if you really mean business), and head over to Soul Fire, a tiny piece of Southern comfort in our Northern metropolis.



DELICIOUS MEAT MASSACRE 2012: NEVER FORGET



A & E

“Wallflower” Makes Quite a Spectacle

By **KERRY LYDON, I**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is one of those rare novel-turned-films that was actually written and directed by the author. Set in the early 1990s, Stephen Chbosky’s story takes place over the course of our protagonist, Charlie’s, first year of high school. Charlie (Logan Lerman) is the epitome of teenage awkwardness, and Lerman does an excellent job communicating his unease—certainly a task as most of Charlie’s personality is revealed through a series of letters written to an anonymous person, referred to only as “friend.” He is the exact opposite of Patrick (Ezra Miller) and Sam (Emma Watson), stepsiblings who have a supportive and affectionate relationship, which is a refreshing change from the typical tension-fraught relationship we are used to seeing between stepsiblings. Charlie first meets Patrick in class, but he really starts to bond with the two of them after they offer him a seat at a school football game. From that moment on, Charlie starts to open up a little, becoming part of their group of friends after a homecoming dance after-party and an incident involving brownies.

As the plot progresses, we get the sense from a letter which Charlie writes to “friend” that he might have some underlying psychological issues. “I’m getting bad again,” he says, after an inci-

dent involving an unfortunate round of truth or dare drives him from the group of friends he has only just been accepted into. It is at this moment that you realize how much value Charlie has put in the friendships he has developed, especially given the hinted-at losses he has experienced in the past. In the absence of these

read and valuable advice. Earlier in the film, when Charlie asks why his friends always choose to love people who hurt them, Mr. Anderson replies, “We accept the love we think we deserve.” This idea is reflected throughout the film in the various relationships between the characters: Charlie’s attraction to Sam, Patrick’s

experience romance, suffer betrayal by those close to them and endure the anguish of feeling alone. The references to a period of time in which most of us were not around do not make the film feel dated—the themes of love, adolescence and exploration are truly timeless.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is written from the point of view of an outsider attempting to figure out who he is and how he connects with his friends and family. It is funny, touching and, like life, unpredictable. The cast is excellent and each actor adds a vibrancy to its character that resonates with the audience, especially Emma Watson in one of her first roles post-Potter. Perks offers an honest perspective of adolescence outside of high school social circles and how, through self discovery, experimentation and those moments when our potential seems limitless, we find ourselves where we belong.

At some point or another throughout school, there are moments when everyone may have felt like an outsider looking in, like a wallflower. This is the beauty of Perks; it is a movie among numerous films claiming to depict the high school experience and is truthful and unflinching in its depiction of life in high school. This is what makes it special, and this is what will ultimately make this film one that defines an experience. After all, we all have moments when we swear we are infinite.



BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE MAKE THE BEST WALLFLOWERS

relationships, Charlie starts to fall apart. One constant bond, though, is with his English teacher,

Mr. Anderson (Paul Rudd). Rudd’s character acts a mentor and father figure to Charlie, whose own father does not always relate well to him. Whereas most ignore him, Mr. Anderson recognizes Charlie’s potential, giving him books to

secret relationship with a player on the high school football team and Charlie’s troubled and conflicted memories of his deceased Aunt Helen.

Perks transcends its ‘90s setting, easily managing to remain relatable and relevant to the life of a modern high school student. The characters take their SATs (sans writing section), fret over colleges,

Ricktocracy / Rickpublic / Ricktatorship

By **TRINA DO, I & BRIAN AVERILL, I**  
STAFF WRITER & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fight the Dead, Fear the Living. If you were in the midst of a zombie apocalypse, what would you be more concerned about: the risen dead or the depraved, immoral husk of humanity? Season three of AMC’s hit show, The Walking Dead, continues where it left off last season with a camera pan revealing a prison not far off in the distance. As viewers, we cannot help but wonder what other jaw-dropping events will occur as our favorite group of survivors discover this so-called “haven.”

For those of you who have not yet discovered this want-to-rip-your-hair-out-after-every-episode series, Rick Grimes, played by the handsome British stud Andrew Lincoln, was shot and had slipped into a coma, only to wake up and find himself in the middle of an undead apocalypse. Rick is a natural leader who aims to keep his group safe by any means. In the past two seasons, we had seen Rick lose his cool before, but in third season...

everything you thought you knew about Rick Grimes gets flipped on its head. Last season, he declared that “this isn’t a democracy anymore,” but that does not really ring true. The group still has just as much input as they had last season (albeit their lack of executive decisions without Rick’s input says otherwise). Whether or not he really plans on cracking the whip is yet to be seen.

In these first few episodes of the new season, the audience begins to feel sympathy for once hated characters, such as Carl, Rick’s son, and Lori, Rick’s wife. The son of our protagonist has matured into a certified badass, finishing off two walkers during the incursion of an abandoned house in the first episode. Lori, the out-of-touch “queen bee” of season two, has one tear-jerking scene of immediate redemption where we finally understand why she seemed so overbearing and protective in previous seasons. Sometimes we forget that every single one of these characters are human—even the new ones.

One of the many characters we are introduced to in season three, a fan

favorite from the comic book, has already earned her credentials with the audience. She is the headstrong, independent, katana-wielding Michonne, played by actress Danai Gurira. Michonne is accompanied by two walkers, who have their jaws and arms sliced off for her protection. Andrea, after having been accidentally abandoned by Rick’s group, ends up accompanying Michonne. They are subsequently “captured” and thrown into a bustling town full of resources and civilization that seems too good to be true.

So where does this leave our merry batch of heroes? Will they make it to season four? We have seen quite a handful of deaths, merciless killings and a number of other things we cannot describe due to spoilers. If we have learned one thing from this season so far, though, it is that humanity is in rough shape. Walkers? Walkers are easy enough—they are predictable, so you feel no remorse or guilt over them. Humans? They are now the dangerous ones in this post-apocalyptic world. I fear of my human compatriots, not the walkers.

The second season was slow, dull and uneventful, but so far this season,



RICKTATORSHIP AT ITS BEST

the writers have really stepped up to the plate. They made us form an emotional attachment to the characters. Unfortunately, our most beloved characters are wrenched away from us one at a time, much like the way it would go down in a real zombie apocalypse. The only things we can do are to sit at the edge of our seats, bite our nails every Sunday night and watch.

Horoscopes

**Aries, Mar 21 - Apr 19:** As the sexiest zodiac sign, expect to be showered with many quaint gifts and favors, ranging from the utile – those little tooth floss things from CVS – to the poetic – a simulated walk in front of a green screen that displays a romantic setting sun.

**Taurus, Apr 20 - May 20:** Taureans are among the craftiest of the 12 signs, which will come quite in handy when your nasty habit for acquiring material wealth lands you in a state penitentiary and you need to make a prison break a la John Dillinger.

**Gemini, May 21 - Jun 20:** You know what’s a good movie for you to watch this month? Tommy Wiseau’s The Room. As a Gemini himself, Wiseau will tell you exactly what you want to hear – like

what in the world was up with that football scene.

**Cancer, Jun 21 - Jul 22:** Cancers are deeply intuitive and sentimental, with a high sense of empathy and sympathy, ergo, the frilliest sign around. C’mon, man, walk it off! Rub some dirt into it!

**Leo: Jul 23 - Aug 22:** That argument you’re thinking of having on the 27th is going to end very badly, so shut up and stick to small talk. My senses are telling me that it’s going to rain around then, so you should be set for the whole night.

**Virgo, Aug 23 - Sep 22:** The universe is displeased with the fact that you didn’t know that James Earl Jones voiced Darth Vader in the original films. Extremely displeased. Be prepared to face the repercussions.

**Libra, Sep 23 - Oct 22:** If a tall, thin man with a blank face and extremely long limbs begins to follow you during an excursion to the Arboretum – don’t run. That’s what he wants. There is no escape.

**Scorpio, Oct 23 - Nov 21:** Like Bane, darkness is not your ally. Literally – if you turn off the lights in your house, you will stub your toe on that one sofa leg again.

**Sagittarius, Nov 22 - Dec 21:** You know what’s a great idea, Sagittarius? Riding your scooter down that really big hill in Charlestown. Blindfolded.

**Capricorn, Dec 22 - Jan 19:** Like my hero and our Lord Savior Nicolas Cage, you like to tackle life’s problems in conventional, traditional manners. Whether studying the script of life or

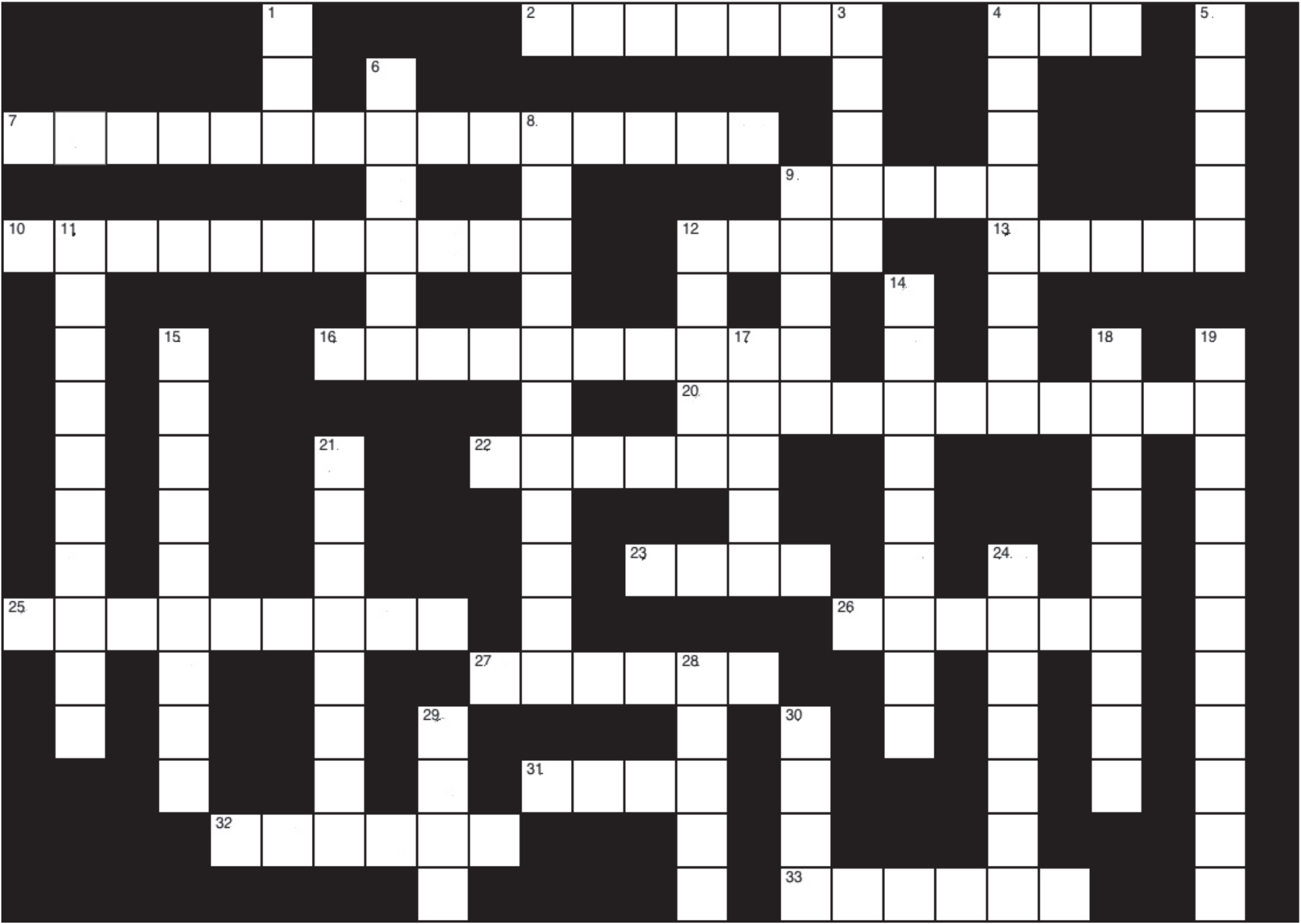
adjusting the boom mic of personal relationships, you have the required diligence to blast through every obstacle in your way, like Johnny Blaze blasts through the escaped infidels of the Underworld.

**Aquarius, Jan 20 - Feb 18:** All that reading of Nicholas Sparks’s novels is really going to pay off this month, Aquarius: you will meet a tortured, handsome stranger who will teach you how to love again – but someone in your family is going to suffer some mildly disastrous event. Choices, choices.

**Pisces, Feb 19 - Mar 20:** My senses are telling me to guide you to join a certain student union based in a certain northeastern city famed for its baseball team, that if you do, great fortune and educational representation will befall you. Strange...



HEY ARGO READERS! IF YOU ARE THE FIRST TO SOLVE THIS CROSSWORD PUZZLE, CUT IT OUT AND PASS IT IN TO ALEC MACNEIL (HR: 134), YOU WILL WIN A DATE WITH SUPER STUD ALEC MACNEIL! GOOD LUCK!



Across

Down

2. Fallout: New Vegas protagonist

4. Front page article is about the

7. Title of last BLS improv show

9. Aunt \_\_\_\_ in Perks of Being a Wall flower

10. Invented the A-Bomb

12. McKinley was assassinated by

13. Eric Forman's better half

16. Dictator of Belarus

20. This movie brought the Shins to stardom

22. Original actor to portray Capt. Willard in Apocalypse Now
23. "No more \_\_\_\_ measures, Walter."

25. Only person to not be hypnotized on 11/16/12

26. Alien species of Star Wars character Greedo

27. Tom Buchanan's mistress

31.  $y=e^{(2x)}$ ;  $y' =$

32. Sarte's magnum opus

33. Official religion of Japan
1. Danielewski's sister

3. "Odin's \_\_\_\_!"; Edgar Allan was very familiar to this

4. Anders with blonde hair

5. Head copy editor; \_\_\_\_ Kalapurakkel

6. Gilgamesh's friend

8. Mary Wollstonecraft's daughter

9. Miranda \_\_\_\_ Mahmoud

11. Arguably the greatest Michael Scott improv character

12. American Horror Story Asylum's Jessica \_\_\_\_

14. The \_\_\_\_ brothers in Radiohead
15. Controversial 1857 civil rights court case

17. Nicolas Cage's second son; probably allergic to kryptonite

18. Mac's real name in Always Sunny

19. Kyle XY was born without a \_\_\_\_

21. Oedipus' better daughter

24. Jim Carey starred opposite of \_\_\_\_ in Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

28. Louis C.K.'s cure for the excess of idiots on Earth

29. What do earth worms use to breathe?

30. To help it swallow, a frog uses its

Sudokus

Easy

						4		2
		3	6		9	1	5	
9	1	8	4		2	3	6	7
5			9	6	4			
6	8		2			5		
4	7	9	5	8	1	2	3	
3		7		4	6			
	6	4				7		
8				2			1	4

Diabolical

4	1		5					
		5			3			
7				9	2	4		
						8		
5						1	2	
3			9				4	
				7				6
	6			4	1	2		
	5						8	



# A&E

## Get Hypnotized

By NHU LE, I  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Friday, November 16, 2012, Boston Latin School was once again graced with the annual Hypnotist Show, a Facing History scholarship benefit event wherein students get hypnotized to generally hilarious effect for the amusement of all who attend. This year was no different.

The show started with an amazing performance by the BLS Step Squad and a quick raffle for the grand prize of a tablet. Then, the main event started. Ten male and ten female volunteers, whose names were pulled from the ticket baskets, came on stage and were gently led under hypnosis. Half the fun is seeing who gets hypnotized, and this group was as diverse as usual. There were a participant from outside the school, adorable underclassmen, and lots of juniors and seniors (including my fellow Editor-in-Chief Alec Macneil). That's when the fun started.

The Hypnotist put the group through a series of scenarios more absurd than the last – from hiding money to racing horses to losing their bellybutton to being the Japanese emperor. There were a couple of stand-out moments: Jake Halloran dancing to win a trip with Jennifer Lopez after proclaiming he's the best because he has a great butt, Alec Macneil as emperor yelling that he would "kill all

the men and take all the women to party all night long" in make-believe Japanese, and people milking cows. Yes, milking cows – normal ones, giant ones, small ones. These were definitely moments for posterity (and judging by the number of phones being whipped out, they probably will live on in the pages of Facebook and Youtube). By the end, I was on the floor laughing.

The event brings a great crowd ev-

ery year to BLS. About a thousand people cram into the school's upper gym to see the hilarious and highly recommended show. This year, the show was as good as ever, but attendance seemed lacking. It seemed like the local Holy Cross dance and the premiere of "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2" all conspired to lower attendance – which is a shame, because not only is the event great fun, but it is for an incredible

cause.

The Hypnotist is an annual fundraiser put on by the students of Facing History, to raise scholarship money for a trip to Eastern Europe for 46 of its students. The class centers around confronting the horrific mass atrocities of the past. The Eastern Europe trip takes students to museums and sites of the Holocaust, so that students can have a greater grasp of the impact of the tragedy and similar ones, their causes, and their solutions. This year, Ms. Freeman reports the event generated less for the fund than previous years, due to the lower attendance.

Although she thanks students for their incredibly hard work, she stresses that it is more important than ever to work harder to raise money for students who need financial aid. The fundraising continued into this week, with bake sales on Monday and Tuesday, and feverish voting for the Facing History organization's Upstander Award for Ms. Freeman, which would earn \$5,000 towards the scholarship fund. **She urges everyone to vote until voting closes on Wednesday, November 21st, at <http://outreach.facinghistory.org/vote/entry/judi-freeman>. Best of luck to them!**

The cause is definitely worthy, and despite the initial disappointment over the money raised from The Hypnotist, we still have to thank the Facing History students for the great show they helped put on last Friday.



ARE THEY AWARE OF WHAT THEY'RE DOING?

# SPORTS

## Running on the Backstreets

By SOPHIE GRANBERRY, I  
& BETH MINAHAN, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

If you have ever found yourself taking a peaceful stroll around the Jamaica Plain pond or trying not to be blown off the Mass Ave bridge while crossing into Cambridge after school, chances are, you have caught up with the Cross Country team. You were probably intimidated by the swift determination of this wolfpack, and for good reason.

Coached by the talented Mike Meagher, who has been a member of the BLS community for as long as anyone can remember, the team was pushed to their limits both mentally and physically. Towards the end of the season, Meagher scrapped his usual hard workout schedule for a more demanding one. This change in the game plan ultimately led select members of the team to unheard-of personal records in the Dual County Championships and a colorful post-season.

Under the leadership of familiar track article names such as Mike Ward (I), Robin Piatt Stegman (I), Beth Minahan (I), Sophie Granberry (I) and Dayo Hall (I), the team soared to previously unthinkable heights, both on and off the field. Racking up a total of four regular season wins between the boys' and girls' teams combined, and placing thirteenth at Divisionals last weekend, there was not one member on the team not proud to proclaim: "I am a member of the Wolfpack!" Of course, though Cross Country is a team sport, it has strong individual roots. Senior Mike Ward made many personal accomplishments, winning four out of five dual county league meets, placing third overall in the Dual County Championships, and qualifying for all-states.

Believe it or not, Mike Ward is

not the only member of the squad with such an impressive track record. While many would argue that Ward is the MVP of the cross country squad, the team would be nothing without the perseverance and spirit of the cross country underclassmen. This motley crew of young guns always gets the whole team dancing in their seats on bus rides with classic hits by Green Day and Bon Jovi. Even as freshmen and sophomores, many of our runners show amazing leadership skills. Zach Meszoely's (III) passion for running and his competitive spirit are inspiring examples for younger runners. Veteran cross country runner Yuta Belmont (V) shows great promise as an eighth grader. During races he zooms past much older and more experienced opponents. The boys are not the only powerhouse underclassmen; the team is destined to be a good time for years to come, stacked with such awesome spirit coming from the freshmen and

sophomore girls.

The eighth grade has not failed us this season, providing us not only with the adorable Yuta Belmont but also the remarkable Sarah Kiamie (V). Daughter of an avid knitter who handmade all of those awesome purple and white beanies you may have seen bobbing around the school, Sarah does not seem to struggle to keep stride with her older, more experienced peers. In practice and in competition, Sarah can be spotted running alongside cross country stars such as Stegman, "the twins" Alannah and Grace O'Brien (III), Emily Moya (III), Ava Violich (II) and Julia Santoro (IV). These girls have demonstrated the power of teamwork this season, pushing each other in practice and always remaining competitive and alert.

The low point of the season was the loss of Mike "The Deserter" Kriesberg (II) who tragically rescued himself from his position as the only junior boy on the Cross Country team just days before the

Championship. The team pushed on, but the gaping hole is still felt all too strongly in the hearts of the team.

One cannot help but wonder where the team would have been without "spirit captains" Beth Minahan (I), Sophie Granberry (I) and Dayo Hall (I). These ladies took it as their duty to make sure that every member of the team always had a smile on his or her face, even through the tough losses and grueling workouts. Though their humor leaned towards that of a bunch of dads, these girls really stepped up to the plate, raising the standard of their normal, borderline, unfunny humor, and making the season one of laughter and community.

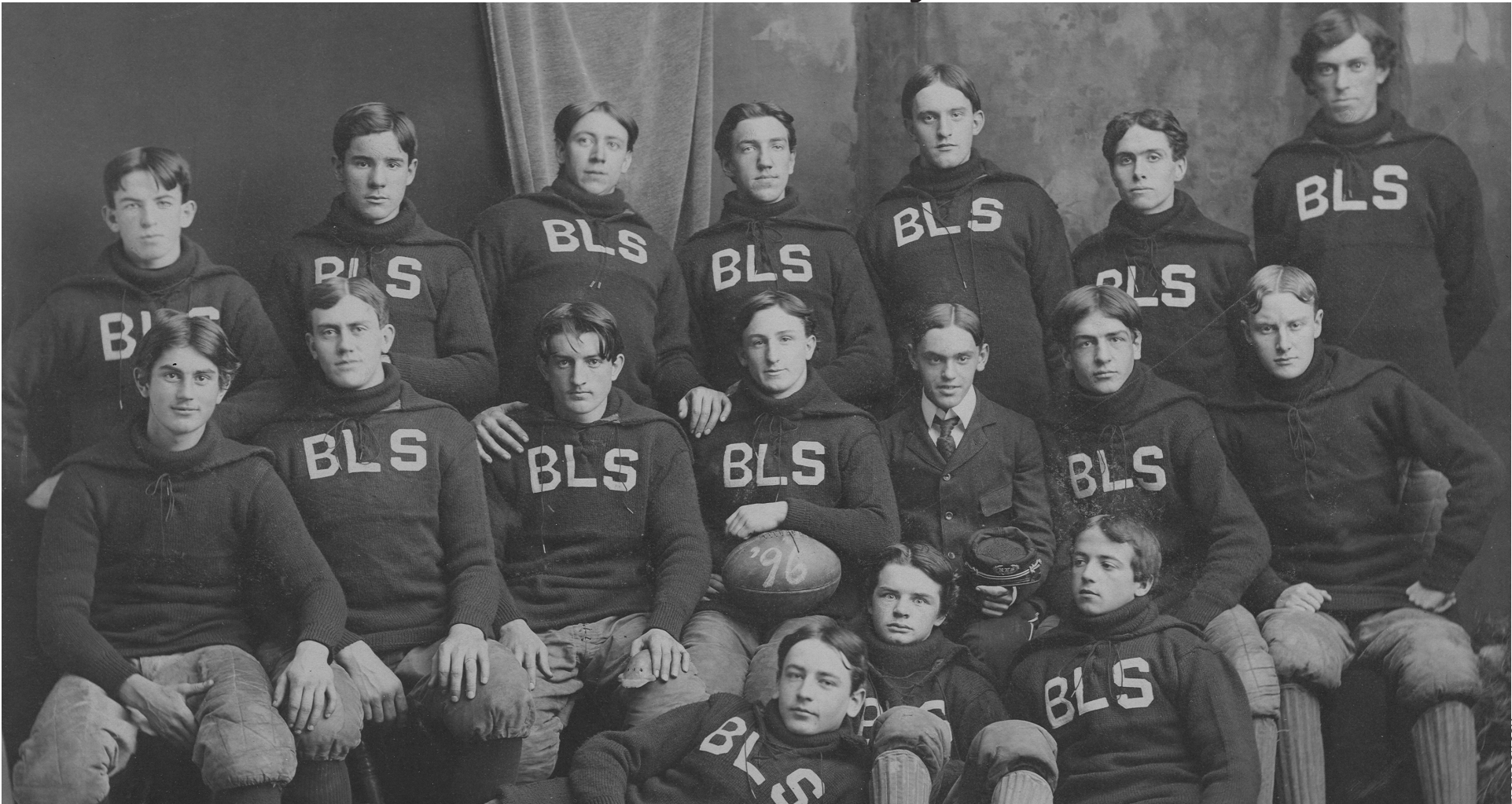
Though there are some on the squad for whom this is their last BLS Cross Country season, a fact that could leave them with heavy hearts, they are nonetheless thrilled when looking over their shoulders at the sure-footed fleet that will come behind them.



NO HALF TIMES, NO TIME OUTS, NO SUBSTITUTIONS



# The 150th Anniversary of Football



THE FIRST PHOTO OF THE BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM IN 1896

By **ABDIRIZAK ABDI, I**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Football, one of America’s favorite sports, started out right here in the Hub. 150 years ago, the Oneida Football Club of Boston was founded by Gerrit Miller. He was a student of Dixwell’s Boston Private Latin School, a school founded by a former headmaster of Boston Latin School. The club was made up of 16 players, one of which was a Boston Latin School student, James D’Wolf Lovett. James was a mysterious student and only showed up once in our school records as a member of Class VI. The lack of safety gear back then might have had something to do with that. The first games were all played

at Boston Commons, where a plaque still stands commemorating the club, and the activity later became an interschool sport with informal games between many Boston high schools. The Oneida club had its fair share of games against Boston Latin School, but since it organized the sport, it was far ahead of the competition.

On November 7, 1863, the rivals English High School and Boston Latin School put their differences aside and joined forces against the Oneida Football Club in a match, which was coined “The Great Game of 1863.” The match was the most hard-fought and contested that the Oneida ever played. Unfortunately, the club still won as the superior strategist,

planning for the contests as if they were battles of war rather than games.

The football of that time is very different than how we know it now. The goal was to get the football down the field and past the opposing team by any means necessary, and the first team to score two goals won. The ball could be kicked, thrown, handed off, tucked in your shirt behind your back or whatever was necessary to score a goal. The game looked more like a large-scale brawl than an organized sport. Furthermore, the lack of helmets, padding and other safety measures led the game to be banned in many school campuses because of its brutal nature.

Organized football has since then

evolved to become one of the most watched and beloved sports in the world. The boys from the Oneida Club started what would become a huge tradition in high school and college life and created a reason to stay on your couch every Sunday. So, let us all take a moment and thank Gerrit Smith and, of course, Boston Latin School. Without Boston Latin School, Dixwell’s Boston Private Latin School would have never existed and neither would the Oneida Football Club. We are the birthplace of American secondary education and our legacy will live on for eternity because of our involvement in so much of what makes America what it is today. Remember: Sumus Primi.

## Football Success Transcends Mere Statistics

By **KHARI THOMPSON, I**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Statistics play an important role in measuring athletic success. Statistics reveal valuable information such as how many points a team scores or how many games a team wins. There are many aspects of a football team, however, that cannot be measured by statistics.

Statistics cannot tell you how much heart a team has. Statistics cannot tell you how much a team has learned over the course of the season. Thus, statistics cannot tell the story of the 2012-2013 BLS Wolfpack football team, a story which goes far beyond the dark, unforgiving win-loss statistics.

The story begins with its two protagonists, captains Mike Surdek (I) and Jhalen Bien-Aime (I). Faced with the task of leading a young, inexperienced team into the heat of a DCL Small schedule, Surdek and Bien-Aime took charge. Under their leadership, the Wolfpack became a close-knit bunch. “The locker room was great all year,” said Bien-Aime. “That speaks to our character a lot. The fact that we were able to stick together through this whole season meant a lot.” These guys toughed it out every day through wins losses, rain, shine, triumphs and tribulations.

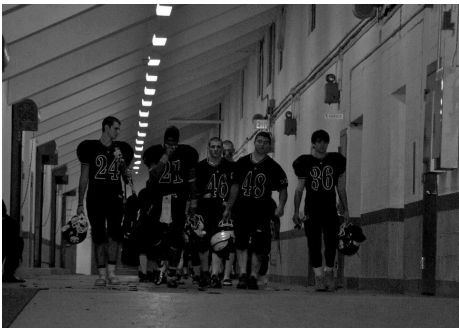
Sticking together has always been part of the culture of BLS football. I know

that from my experience as a member of the Wolfpack. From day one the coaches let us know that the Wolfpack always sticks together, that we always have each other’s back and that we always fight to the finish. This year’s team adopted these values from day one, and has applied them throughout the season.

As the season progressed, other characters began to step up and work their way into the story. Roy Bahnam (II) emerged as the starting quarterback. Duncan McGaff (III) used his speed and elusiveness to make big plays. Sebastien D’Amico (II) served up about as many pancakes as a local IHOP. Peter Honzik’s (III) play as tight end was reminiscent of Patriots star Rob Gronkowski. Josh Pierre-Jean (I) and Stanley Debrosse (I) worked their way up the depth chart and onto the field. “Josh and Stanley, their work ethic all year was always 100 percent. They were always flying around and giving a ton of effort. All year in practice, all year in the offseason. They clawed their way up from the bottom. That’s something I really respect as a teammate,” said Bien-Aime.

Much like Josh and Stanley, the rest of the Wolfpack persevered through tough times this year. Instead of giving up, the team as a whole pushed hard to get better day by day. They made monumental strides over just a few months, and they reaped the rewards of a season’s worth

of hard work. The Wolfpack mounted a furious fourth-quarter comeback against Newton South High School and nearly



THE WOLVES AFTER THEIR LAST HOME GAME

overcame a 14-point deficit. Captain Mike Surdek credits the Newton South game as the team’s defining moment: “After the Newton South game, which we only lost by two points, you would think everyone would have their heads down, but we had a lot of fun with the comeback. That was kind of our season in a nutshell.”

The Wolfpack went on to thrash the Weston Wildcats, beating them 38-0 in Weston. The Wolfpack aims to end its season with a flourish against rival Boston English at 10A.M. on Thanksgiving morning. “There is no way we can take English lightly,” says Bien-Aime. “They are talking a lot of smack and quite frankly I think they are forgetting that we have been spanking their butts the past few years.” Perhaps the 50-0 beatdown we handed out to them last year was not

enough to keep their mouths shut.

The Wolfpack did not meet expectations as far as wins and losses go. They did work hard, however, and learned a lot throughout the season. The Wolfpack managed to get some enjoyment out of the season as well. “Obviously our record did not go the way we wanted, but we definitely had a lot of fun this season,” said Surdek. This season, the Wolfpack accomplished far too much to be judged solely on their record. They achieved something that many teams have never done before: they banded together and fought to the end of every game, while balancing fun and hard work in the process.

To all my fellow 2013 classmates who toiled through this long and arduous season, you have truly earned a shoutout. It was amazing to watch how far you have come as a team. I had the rare experience of watching you guys from two different perspectives: as a teammate and as a fan. I was truly impressed by the way you guys carried yourselves and stood up to even the biggest of DCL heavyweights. So to Jay, Mike, Josh, Stan, Cronin, Devin, Admir, Arthur, Chris, Moose, K. Chen, Conor Pease and any whom I may have forgotten, give yourselves a pat on the back. It was a pleasure watching you guys. I can only hope the rest of your fans had half as much fun watching you guys as I did.



# For The Team, For The Green

By CJ DULLEA, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Golf is played mainly on a five-and-a-half-inch course, the space between your ear.” Measuring it up, reading the green and determining where the ball needs to go – it is going in the hole. It has to go in the hole. Picture this: you line it up, take a nice, careful stroke and there it goes. It glides smoothly across the green, and then finally, it sinks. You jump into the air in celebration, and the entire team comes and picks you up on their shoulders. This is a day in the life of a BLS golfer.

Even though we dominated the league with our 0-12 record, I still feel that we could have done better. It does not reflect the true effort of the team. Led



HITTIN' HOLES IN ONE

by our fearless captain, Ryan “The Plum” Dougherty (I), every member of our golf squadron manages to give our all on the course every day we are out there. Thankfully, we have been blessed with another glorious year of coaching by the infamous Kevin “K-Bern” Bernazzani, who has managed to teach us not only the fundamentals of chipping and putting but also how to truly be better people.

Although we did not win any matches, there were certainly some very close ones. One of the most memorable matches was when we were in Nashawtuc Country Club for a tri-match against Lincoln-Sudbury and Waltham. We knew we would not stand a chance against Lincoln-Sudbury, but when has reason ever discouraged us? In addition, Waltham’s predominantly seventh grade team gave us a good shot. Even though Bernazzani always told us, “You aren’t playing against the other players, you are playing against the course,” this ideology did not apply in this match. There were “sneezes” in backswings, chirps in the entire match and even an occasional lack of fixation on a ball mark. When it came down to the end of the match, we were neck and neck with Waltham.

We were only down by a single point when our final player Liam Harrow (IV), the self-proclaimed Tiger Woods prodigy, came back from the final green. We stood there in excitement, waiting for the good news. Unfortunately, Liam came up on the hill bearing news that crushed every player’s hopes and dreams. Alas, he had earned zero points that match. For those of you who are not golf experts, getting zero points in a match is the equivalent of bowling an entire game with the bumpers up and knocking down zero pins. Though overwhelmed with temptation to yell Billy Madison’s classic “YOU BLEW IT” line, we knew that it was not what a team would do, unless it was to Danny O’Leary (IV).

The best way to describe this season is that it was an emotional roller coaster. Whether it was the match when a four-foot-tall girl wiped the floor with CJ Dullea (I) and asked if he had ever played golf before or when K-Bern got the teas out of my bag, we always left the course with a smile on our face. I would like to give a huge shout out to Mr. Bernazzani for sticking with us and actually teaching us newcomers the ropes of golf. Also, shout out to Megan Burns (I) and Ryan for having great careers and for always keeping their chins up no matter the outcome of the matches. Good luck next year to all the younglings, especially Conor Moccia (II), Lauren O’Shea (II) and Jake Woods (II). As Ryan would say, “It goes by real fast, before you know it, it’s all over so cherish every last moment of it.”

## Spotlight Bria Fredericks



By SOPHIE HYMAN, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Bria Fredericks (I) embodies what a true athlete should be. She is competitive, confident, dedicated, fast and strong. But what makes this already amazing person stick out even more is her steadfast determination in all aspects of life. Bria grew up playing soccer and developed a strong love for the game at a very young age. From the beginning, it was clear to everyone that she had more skills and better techniques than the average soccer player and to this day this fact remains true. In fact, she was so talented and skilled that she was able to make the BLS varsity soccer team with ease in only the ninth grade as a forward and continued to be one of the main goal scorers for the team. Unfortunately her ability to play was put on hold in the ninth grade when Bria was diagnosed with a knee injury that has led to her having to undergo multiple surgeries. Because of this she was forced to miss the soccer season in both her sophomore and junior years. Unlike most people in this position who would have hung their head, Bria showed her passion for the sports and her true dedication by coming to almost every practice and game to support her fellow teammates despite the fact that she knew she wasn’t in any condition to play. Because of Bria’s determination and real love for the game of soccer- and to the delight of her teammates- she was able to beat all odds and gloriously returned back to the pitch for her senior year. Of course Bria had an amazing season, dominating the fields and striking fear in the eyes of her opponents, and the fact that she was able to play with her team once again made this season one of the best we have had.

In addition to her marvelous athletic abilities, Bria also shows what it really means to be a student athlete- besides being a star soccer player she also manages to maintain a close to perfect GPA. I have been lucky enough to be able to play on multiple teams with Bria and know for a fact that she would never let her teammates down. Soon she will be off to college and I know that any school she gets into will be ecstatic to find out how lucky they are to have such an amazing person. If you aren’t already friends with Bria you should definitely take an opportunity to get to meet her; she is an amazing teammate, a brilliant scholar and an even more extraordinary friend.

# Oxygen Is Overrated

By EDALINA WANG, I & MICHAELA HARRINGTON, II  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Although swimming is seen as an individual sport, the Boston Latin School Girls’ Swim Team transforms this image into one filled with teamwork and support. When the season began at the end of August, the team, already known for being one of the largest Wolfpack sports teams, became even larger. It now consists of 72 girls.

The team started off as a struggle as it tried to fit such a large number of girls into a standard six-lane pool, but Head Coach Bruce Conley, who has been coaching the Girls’ Swim Team for over 30 years, was adamant about letting all members participate. He commented, “The BLS Girls’ Swim Team has always been known as one of the most welcoming Wolfpack teams. Making cuts would completely change the nature of this team.” The struggles became even greater when one of our star swimmers and captains, Michaela “Jonsey” Jones (I), received a concussion from swimming. The team pulled through this setback, however, with the tremendous help of our other captain, Edalina “Eddy Bby” Wang (I) and junior captains Maddie Kilgannon (II), Michaela Harrington (II) and Sally “WOO” Wu (II).

As the team grew, so did the enthusiasm and spirit displayed throughout the season. Whether it was shown through the variety of dress-up days (i.e. Spirit Day, Black-out Day, Dress-Up-As-A-Senior Day, etc.) or the mobs of people standing at the end of each lane at every meet cheering on their teammates, the swim team never failed to uplift the hearts and souls of each of its members and fans. The season wrapped up at the Senior Meet as BLS swam an extraordinarily close meet against Marshfield. It showcased seniors Michaela Jones (I), Edalina Wang (I), Charlotte

“COB” Bruce (I), Denise “Da Niece” Yoon (I) and Danae “Da Nephew” Yoon (I). At halftime, the meet was strung out as a battle of the fittest when the announcer reported that the meet was tied. BLS proceeded to do phenomenally in their next few events. Harrington went on to come in first in the 100-yard butterfly. Kate “Katy Bby” Yuan (IV) proceeded to carry on this honor when she won first place in the 100-yard backstroke. Right before the last event, the announcer reported that BLS was ahead by merely two points. As the swimmers stepped up to the blocks for the final event, the 400 free relay, the



heat was on. The cheering and noise was so loud that swimmer Alice “Aly Bby” Xiao (II) decided to plug her ears. The swimmers swam their hardest, but as the last swimmers were completing their final length of the pool, Marshfield inched ahead of BLS to take first place. BLS proceeded to come in second and third. Marshfield began to scream with joy, as the BLS team grew silent. Finally, the announcer reported, “Marshfield- 86 ... Boston Latin- 92.”

Immediately, BLS started cheering and Xiao once again plugged her ears.

The victory of the senior meet was only a harbinger for the future success of the swim team. The swim team has had one of its best years at Sectionals this season, with a roster including Kate Della Barba (IV), Kate Yuan (IV), Nora Cameron (III), Kristen Fields (III), Sylvie Stoloff (III), Monica Ovalles (III), Michaela Harrington (II), Sally Wu (II), and Michaela Jones (I). The team placed ninth in the 200-yard medley relay, 10th in the 200-yard freestyle relay, and 13th in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Individually, Sylvie Stoloff finished in fourth place in diving, Yuan placed eighth and tenth in the 100-yard freestyle and 50-yard freestyle respectively, and Harrington finished in 15th place in the 100-yard butterfly. Overall they came in 11th place out of 23 teams. The teammates qualified for States taking place on Sunday, November 18, and hope that they can continue their triumphs in the pool.

The success and spirit of the Girls’ swim team has made the end of the season extremely bittersweet, especially for the seniors. This season will be one that no one will forget for its incredible sense of unity, teamwork, inspiration and success. “The BLS Girls’ swim team has become a part of our hearts these past five to six years on the team,” remarked Jones and Wang. “We will never forget the happiness each and every member of the team has brought us. Long live the Boston Latin School Girls’ Swim Team.”